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### Waite delays Beirut mission

LONDON (R) — Special Air Force pilot Terry Waite said Tuesday he would not leave London to go to Lebanon to free Western hostages held there. Mr. Waite, who is being held in Beirut, said in a television interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) that he would not leave Beirut until he had a guarantee that he would be safe. "I'm waiting to hear from my contacts. I have to have certain guarantees about my safety. The situation in Lebanon is extremely volatile at the moment and unless I get those guarantees obviously it's a waste to go," he said. Mr. Waite said on the BBC's News at One. Mr. Waite, who was instrumental in the release from Beirut last month of U.S. hostage David Jacobson, said he was following up leads on the fate of two other Americans detained in Lebanon, Terry Anderson and Tom Sutherland, as well as a British and an Irish hostage. "There is a key person in the Lebanon whom I relate to who will give me certain guarantees and when he returns — he's out of the country at the moment — then it'll be possible to move," Mr. Waite said.

### Masri arrives in Cairo

CAIRO (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri arrived in Cairo Tuesday evening after attending an emergency session of the Arab League Council which discussed the "camps war" in Lebanon. Mr. Masri is scheduled for a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Alexandria Wednesday morning and also with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul-Meguid. In an arrival statement, Mr. Masri said his visit to Cairo was within the framework of consultations and coordination between Jordan and Egypt. The minister said the recent visits to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait by His Majesty King Hussein were within the King's efforts for Arab coordination and towards achieving Arab solidarity. In Tunis earlier on Tuesday, Mr. Masri held talks with Sheikh Hamad bin Suhaim Al Thani, under-secretary of the Qatari Foreign Ministry on Jordanian-Qatari relations and issues of mutual concern. Sheikh Hamad and Mr. Masri also voiced support for a special Arab committee formed by the Tunis meeting to supervise a ceasefire between Palestinian fighters and Lebanese Amal militiamen in the "camps war".

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Volume 11 Number 3357

AMMAN, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24, 1986, RABIA AL THANI 23, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

### Voyager lands

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE (AP) — Voyager ended its historic unrefueled, non-stop trip around the world Tuesday with a safe desert landing after a nine-day flight beset by storms, engine problems and worries over fuel. The lightweight tri-fuselage plane, with front and rear engines covered, (41,824 kilometers) in its maker said. It effectively doubled every non-stop, unrefueled distance record in aviation history. The Voyager was accompanied by three chase planes as it broke through clouds over the desert. It slowly descended, doing several victory passes before touching down at 8:06 a.m. (1606 GMT) on a dry lake bed, watched by 15,000 spectators.

### Egypt looks for resumed Arab ties

CAIRO (R) — Prime Minister Atef Sedki said Tuesday he hoped Egypt's readmission to the Arab Football Federation (AFF) would be a step towards resumption of full ties with all Arab countries which severed relations after Cairo signed a separate treaty with Israel. He was addressing the opening session of the AFF general assembly which formally lifted Egypt's seven-year suspension. "This meeting shows that Cairo has a prominent position in the Arab World and has an active role which cannot be denied and that full ties will gradually be established," Dr. Sedki said.

### Iraq discovers phosphate reserves

BAGHDAD (R) — Huge reserves of phosphates have been discovered in Iraq, industry and mineral resources minister Sabhy Yassin said Tuesday. He did not say where the ore was found but told the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that the reserves exceeded 3,500 million tonnes and would put Iraq among the world's top phosphate-producing states.

### Najibullah becomes Afghan president

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan ruling Communist Party leader Najibullah became president of the country on Tuesday in place of Babrak Karmal who resigned last month, official Kabul Radio said. The radio said the revolutionary council presidium elected Mr. Najibullah as its president, an office that makes him head of state as well as party leader. Mr. Karmal resigned the presidency on Nov. 20 for what were officially called health reasons, seven years after he came to power.

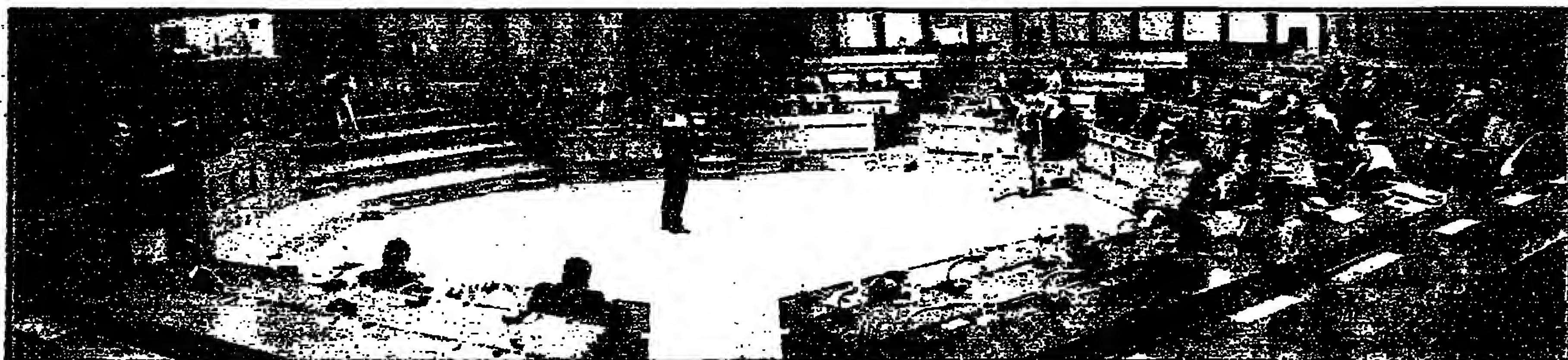
### Thatcher visits Ulster

BELFAST (AP) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher made an unannounced pre-Christmas trip to Northern Ireland under heavy guard Tuesday. The prime minister also visited an army base that was hit last month by Irish Republican Army mortar shells. The Northern Ireland office said Mrs. Thatcher was to spend eight hours touring police and army installations on an itinerary that would not expose her to Protestant demonstrators.

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## Lower House passes 1987 budget



### Debate focuses on unemployment, foreign debt

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament on Tuesday approved the JD 1.018 billion budget for 1987 in an eight-hour session during which deputies voiced support for the government's policies, but called for regulating external borrowing.

The majority of the 19 deputies who spoke during the session, as well as the House Financial Committee, cautioned against any increase in securing loans from outside the country and recommended an amendment to the 1971 law on internal public debts. The law stipulates ceilings for the government's internal borrowing and the proposed amendment, had it been approved, would have imposed limits on loans from outside the country.

### 'Camps war' drags on despite moves for truce by Arab League

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Palestinian and Shiite Muslim fighters traded grenade, mortar and artillery fire at refugee camps in Beirut again on Tuesday despite a new peace initiative by Arab League foreign ministers.

"Amal (militia) has been shelling Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh camps for hours," a Palestinian spokesman told Reuters. Amal sources said Palestinians "provoked" by the latest flare-up by firing a mortar bomb from their camps into the Lebanese capital's densely-populated southern suburbs. They said the bomb hit a car, injuring three people.

The firing continued unabated despite a decision by the Arab League in Tunis on Monday to form a committee of foreign ministers to negotiate a ceasefire at the camps.

### Kidnappers promise to free 1 French hostage

BEIRUT (AP) — Kidnappers claiming to hold two Frenchmen hostage pledged Tuesday to release one soon as a Christmas gesture.

The Revolutionary Justice Organisation made the promise in a statement delivered to Beirut's An Nahar and As Safir newspapers.

It was accompanied by pictures of two French television crewmen kidnapped March 8: soundman Aurel Comea, 54, and lighting engineer Jean-Louis Normandin, 34, both of whom worked for France's Antenne-2 television network.

The pictures showed Mr. Comea wearing glasses and pyjamas and Mr. Normandin in a dark jogging suit with the word "soccer" across the chest. Both hostages had thick beards.

They are the only Frenchmen still held by the group, believed made up of Shiite zealots loyal to Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The statement did not say which of the hostages would be freed, and made no reference to two Americans the group claims to hold: Joseph James Cicippio and

which has killed about 700 people. A final communiqué said the committee, composed of seven foreign ministers and headed by Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi, should start work at once.

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Political Department, said after the Tunis meeting that the PLO had been successful. He did not elaborate.

While both the PLO and Syria have said they want a truce, they accuse each other of perpetuating the conflict.

Syria's chief delegate, Foreign Ministry official Hatem Humeiri, denounced the setting up of the committee as a propaganda exercise.

Asked whether Damascus would turn away the committee, he said: "No request has been made but we have said what we think about this committee."

He said Syria wanted the siege of the camps to be lifted, adding that a withdrawal of both sides to

original positions was essential for a truce.

Both Lebanon and Syria expressed formal reservations about the final communiqué of the meeting, which was a follow-up to one held on Dec. 8-9 at the PLO's request.

Diplomatic sources said Lebanon awaited a request from the committee to go there and had expressed its will to try to help end the bloodshed.

Apart from the PLO, only five member states sent foreign ministers to the latest session — Mauritania, Jordan, Iraq, Algeria and Sudan. The rest sent lower level representatives.

The communiqué called on "all parties concerned," without naming any of them, to observe a ceasefire and appealed for a lifting of the siege of the camps to enable the wounded to be evacuated and food and medical supplies to be delivered.

The committee was to try to

### Arafat said to have offered direct talks with Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli Arab parliamentarian said Tuesday that Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was rebuffed when he offered Israel direct negotiations six months ago.

Abdul Wahab Darawseh, of the Israeli Labour Party, said the offer was transmitted through him by high-ranking PLO members while he was on a visit to the United States late in May.

Mr. Darawseh told Reuters he relayed the apparently unprecedented offer to then Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who turned down the invitation after studying it for several weeks.

He believed Mr. Peres did so because accepting talks would have brought down the coalition government in which Labour shares power with the right-wing Likud bloc.

Mr. Darawseh said he was revealing the offer now because

### Iraq vows to keep up pressure on Iran

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq's air force commander on Tuesday vowed to continue intensive air raids on Iranian military and economic facilities to force Tehran to the negotiating table after more than six years of war.

Air Marshal Hamed Shaaban told the government magazine Al-Baas: "Our warplanes will continue destructive raids against the enemy's aggression strongholds, particularly its oil installations, without which Iran possesses nothing."

"Our destructive air raids will be carried out, according to the leadership's plan, on Iran's oil refineries and its main oil terminal at Kharg Island and the substitute terminals further south in the Gulf."

"We shall also continue to attack oil tankers which join in transporting oil from those terminals."

The last Iraqi attack on a vessel in the Gulf to be confirmed by an independent source was against the 123,600-tonne Liberian-flag tanker Achilles, hit on Saturday.

Denying a Washington report that satellite information provided to Iraq by the United States had helped its planes pinpoint and attack Iranian targets, Marshal Shaaban said:

"I am confident the Iraqi jets execute their duties deep inside Iran through Iraqi technical capability, without any assistance from any other party whatsoever."

"Our pilots are able to reach any spot inside Iran, east north or south, through the Iraqi effort alone."

Iraq says its jets have flown 367 sorties over the past two days in what appeared to have been one of the heaviest blitzes in the six-year-old war.

His command communiques listed a variety of military targets, including troop concentrations, convoys and ammunition dumps, across a wide area of southern and western Iran.

The Iraqis say at least 218 people have been killed in Iraqi raids since Sunday and it is shelling Iraqi border towns in retaliation.

### Israel may limit intervention in occupied territories — Rabin

Palestinian shot after alleged attack • Al Fajr banned for two weeks for Arafat interview

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin indicated on Tuesday Israel would consider changing its military policy in the occupied West Bank following the killing of four Arabs by troops in anti-Israeli demonstrations this month, legislators said.

Mr. Rabin told the foreign affairs and defence committee that the army would consider limiting its intervention in Palestinian areas, according to participants at the meeting.

Asked if putting up road blocks at Birzeit University and other sites of Palestinian nationalism was "provocative," Mr. Rabin replied: "What was good once is not necessarily good now and the question will be studied," the participants said.

Birzeit University students said troops provoked a clash on Dec. 4 by setting up an army roadblock

and identity checkpoint — as they frequently do — near the university.

Two Palestinian students were shot dead in the incident which sparked the worst wave of violence in the West Bank and occupied Gaza in years. Israeli soldiers killed two Arabs in Nablus and wounded at least 30 people during two weeks of ensuing protests.

Mr. Rabin also told the committee that a rise in Muslim and Jewish fundamentalism was leading to a volatile situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"If there is one thing that I am worried about, it is the rise in religious nationalism. It is creating a situation in which the slightest stimulus could ignite the terrain," he was quoted as saying.

Mr. Rabin said he would ban demonstrations but allow religious ceremonies in the West

Bank town of Hebron. The town is the traditional burial site of the biblical patriarchs and a flashpoint of Arab-Israeli violence.

Mr. Rabin contended that rival factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had united against Muslim fundamentalists in West Bank universities.

He also said the expansion of fundamentalist Jewish seminaries into the Muslim quarter of Jerusalem's Old City was a cause of constant tension.

On Nov. 15, a Jewish student was stabbed to death in the Muslim quarter of the Old City in an incident which sparked the worst wave of anti-Arab violence in Jerusalem in years.

Three West Bank Palestinians were sentenced Tuesday to life imprisonment for the Nov. 15

### Reagan wants a copy of Senate panel's findings in Iran inquiry

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan on Tuesday urged a Senate committee to send him a report on its probe into the Iran arms deals so he can release a version to the American people.

Mr. Reagan said that until his former aides, Vice Admiral John M. Poindexter and Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, disclose what they knew of the arms deal and skimming of profits for Nicaraguan rebels, no-one would know the full story.

The president conceded a report by the Senate Intelligence Committee, lacking testimony from Col. North and Adm. Poindexter, "will not have all the answers."

"But it will be the most complete statement available, and I call on the committee to release it so the American people can judge for themselves."

Mr. Reagan proposed issuing a declassified version of the secret report.

Col. North and Adm. Poindexter have refused to testify before the Senate committee.

citing their constitutional guarantee against self-incrimination.

The furor surrounding the Iran-contra affair has become the most serious crisis of the six-year-old Reagan government.

Mr. Reagan said Tuesday he had worked to find out all the facts and make them known to the public.

"All the these indications that maybe I know more than I'm talking about... I'm trying to find out too what happened," he told a group of businessmen.

"As the (Senate) committee prepares a report on its findings and conclusions, I urge them to make that report available to me for declassification as promptly as possible," he said.

There was no immediate reaction from Senator David Durenberger, the Minnesota Republican who chairs the committee. But a committee aide told Reuters: "To my knowledge, we don't have any plans to turn over any of our transcripts to anybody except the Select Committee."

The House of Representatives Intelligence Committee held a brief final session behind closed doors Tuesday morning. Retired Major General Richard Secord, the only witness, refused to testify during a five-minute appearance.

Gen. Secord, a close associate of Col. North, the alleged mastermind of the contra diversion, invoked his Fifth Amendment right against possible self-incrimination.

As Mr. Reagan prepared for a quiet Christmas, apparently hoping for a respite from the scandal that has rocked his presidency, a new public opinion poll showed increased American disapproval of his job performance.

The poll by an Iowa newspaper showed that 55 per cent of Iowa residents disapprove of the president's job performance.

But surveys conducted by Mr. Reagan's own pollster, Richard Wirthlin, this week showed the president's approval rating had increased by some 10 per cent to above the 50 per cent mark.



## Greek, Turkish officials discuss clash at border

ATHENS (Agencies) — Greek and Turkish officials met at a border post in north-eastern Greece Tuesday to investigate a clash last Friday in which two Turkish and one Greek soldier were killed, government spokesman Antonis Kouritis said.

Mr. Kouritis told foreign correspondents that evidence gathered so far showed there had been a clear provocation by the Turkish side.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Yannis Kapsis said Monday that large blood stains at the spot where one of the Turkish soldiers fell were 100 metres inside Greek territory.

Mr. Kapsis Tuesday called in all European Community (EC) and NATO ambassadors to brief them on the incident, one of the most serious between the two countries in recent years.

He charged that a Turkish patrol set up an ambush and attacked a Greek border patrol fatally injuring one Greek soldier and wounding another.

Mr. Kapsis said the new evidence was being submitted by the Greek side during Tuesday's border meeting.

Mr. Kouritis said a statement Monday by Turkish Foreign Minister Yigit Haliloglu indicated that Turkey was withdrawing from its original

The teams met at 10 a.m. (0800GMT) near the site of the incident at the border township of Ipsala, 220 kilometres west of Istanbul, the semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported.

In the Turkish capital, Ankara, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Yalim Eralp on Tuesday criticised Greek Foreign Undersecretary Yannis Kapsis for "continuously changing his version of the incident."

"It is not correct to engage in a public relations campaign over three dead bodies," Mr. Eralp said.

The two sides claim different versions about the cause and location of the incident.

Turkey says the skirmish occurred when a Greek squad opened fire at Turkish border patrols which called on two Greek soldiers to halt when they crossed into Turkish territory.

Greece says the incident occurred on Greek soil when a Greek soldier was ambushed while swapping cigarettes with Turkish border guards.

Turkey and Greece, both NATO members, have longstanding disputes over the divided Mediterranean island of Cyprus, the control of Aegean airspace, seabed riches and the limits of territorial waters.

## Scuffle breaks out in front of Cairo courtroom as trial of policemen starts

CAIRO (AP) — A scuffle broke out between security men and witnesses and most foreign reporters were barred Tuesday as the trial of 44 policemen charged with torturing prisoners began.

In September, Egypt's attorney general charged 41 officers and four non-commissioned officers with torturing prisoners while investigating an alleged coup attempt after the assassination of President Anwar Sadat on Oct. 6, 1981. One of the NCOs has died since then, reportedly of natural causes.

If convicted, the policemen face prison terms of three to 10 years. In a chaotic start to the trial,

family members, defence and prosecution witnesses milled around the courtroom amid scores of security men in uniform and out.

Three rows of security men carrying batons barred witnesses, many of them defence lawyers in the earlier trial, as they approached the courtroom door. A scuffle ensued.

Correspondents who had registered with security officers to attend the trial were turned back, but television crews pushed their way through, helped by their heavy equipment.

An armoured personnel carrier, two prison vans and at least three

## Row erupts over Arab land compensation

By David Rudg  
Jerusalem Post

NAZARETH — The Committee for the Protection of Arab Land held its first national conference in 10 years amid controversy over "compensation" payments for those killed and injured in the 1976 protests against the government's expropriation of Arab-owned land, on what came to be known as Land Day.

The committee has recently been under pressure to disclose what became of the money it allegedly raised in the name of the six people who died in the 1976 riots.

Dozens of people were injured in clashes with police and security forces round the villages of

Sakhnin, Arraba and Dei Hanna. Several of the families of those killed and injured have accused members of the land protection committee of using funds — raised in Israel and abroad ostensibly on behalf of the victims — for private purposes, including trips abroad and the purchase of new cars.

The issue has been taken up by the Progressive List for Peace, which has distributed thousands of leaflets throughout the Arab sector, demanding to know where the money has gone.

Committee members at Saturday's conference hotly refuted the allegations, claiming that the funds raised in the past decade have been used to finance the continued operations of the committee.

They accused the PLP of trying to make political capital out of the issue and split the ranks of the committee.

More than 1,000 people, the majority of them members of Rakah, attended the conference. Participants included two Communist Knesset members, Tawfik Toubi and Tawfik Zayyad, who is also mayor of Nazareth, and 22 of the 48 heads of Arab local councils.

Families of the Land Day victims stayed away.

During the conference a 300-member council was elected to manage the committee's affairs and a number of resolutions were passed, including condemnation of anti-Arab violence in Jerusalem and the "iron-fist"

## Chad imposes censorship

N'DIAMENA, Chad (AP) — The government of President Hissene Habre announced Tuesday it is imposing censorship on all dispatches of foreign news organisations.

Information Minister Moumine Togo Hamidi told foreign reporters that every news story sent out of Chad would have to be approved by an official of his department.

"We are at war," he said, referring to the continuing fighting in northern Chad between the Libyan army and Chadian guerrillas.

"In a situation like ours, other countries would impose a state of emergency and block the flow of information," he said. "We don't do things that way, but we do not want lies and sensational reports about Chad to be spread around the world."

The new ruling was not yet in force and this dispatch was not subjected to censorship.

There have been several previous, half-hearted efforts by the Chad government to censor news stories, but they have generally lasted after a few days.

The government has reported fighting in northern Chad during the past four days between the Libyan army and guerrillas loyal to former rebel leader Goukouni Oueddei.

Mr. Goukouni, recovering in a Tripoli hospital from wounds suffered in a clash with his Libyan guards, changed sides in Chad's perennial civil war and is now considered an ally of Habre.

In Paris, President Francois Mitterrand met with Premier Jacques Chirac and Defence Minister Andre Giraud on Tuesday to discuss the situation in Chad, but no details of the meeting were revealed.

France already maintains a 700-man force in Chad, codenamed Operation Sparrow Hawk, which is essentially radar stations installed at N'Djamena airport and at Moussoro.

On Sunday, the French government stressed that the French presence in Chad was of a dissuasive and defensive nature.

## Israel 'has no plans' to explain Vanunu kidnap case to Italy

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said Tuesday it had no plans to offer Italy explanations for a message which accused Israeli nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu of sneaking to reporters saying he was spirited to Israel from Rome.

Vanunu, 31, who disappeared from London after passing alleged atomic secrets to a British newspaper, flashed a message on the palm of his hand to reporters on his way to court on Sunday which read: "Hijacked in Rome ITL 30.9.86 2100 came to Rome BA Flight 504."

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Ehud Gol said Israel had not been approached by Rome for explanations. He denied a state radio report that Italian officials asked Israel's ambassador in Rome for clarifications.

Gol said the ambassador made the customary visit to Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti to present his credentials.

"This had nothing to do with Vanunu and there was no request for information on Vanunu," Gol told Reuters.

Asked whether Israel would provide Italy with details of the affair without an official request, Gol said: "If there is no approach (by Italy), there is nothing for us to do."

An Italian diplomat in Tel Aviv said the embassy had not yet received instructions to request Israeli clarifications.

"We are trying to find out if what Vanunu has said is true and if so, how it was done before we make inquiries here," he said.

Israel state radio reported that the Italian government asked Israel's ambassador in Rome for clarifications on Vanunu's

message that he was kidnapped in Rome.

The request was passed on to Israel's Foreign Ministry, the radio said.

Asked Monday whether Italy had contacted his government about Vanunu's message, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir replied: "I don't know anything about it."

The newspaper Haaretz Tuesday quoted a Foreign Ministry official as saying Vanunu was not abducted in Rome.

Military censors lifted Monday a reporting ban on the message, revealed when Vanunu pressed the palm of his hand against the window of a police van taking him to a closed-door court hearing in Jerusalem.

In Rome, Prime Minister Bettino Craxi said Tuesday Italy would insist on satisfactory responses from Israel to questions concerning Israeli nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu who alleges he was abducted in Rome.

Mr. Craxi said there were reasons to suspect that Vanunu was seized here, adding that Israel had so far replied with a "no comment" to Italian requests for information "which in itself is significant."

Italian Secret Service officials say they have no knowledge of Vanunu being abducted here.

In answer to a question at a news conference, Mr. Craxi said Italy was trying to understand what could have happened. "We are trying to understand a bit better... What reason would this man have not to tell the truth... What reason would he have to lie?"

## Americans staying away from Holy Land this Christmas

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank (R) — What does the mayor of Bethlehem want for Christmas this year?

American tourists — who are staying away from the turbulent Holy Land in increasing numbers. "They are not coming to town and the craftsmen who make gift items are really hard-hit. Most of the workshops are closed," Mayor Elias Freij told Reuters.

"I hope the American tourists will resume their visits to the Holy Land and Bethlehem in particular. They will be most welcome and safe," he said in his office overlooking Manger Square, a parking lot on every day but Christmas.

Mr. Freij blamed a weak dollar for a 30 per cent drop this year in the number of tourists who visited the traditional birthplace of Jesus Christ.

But officials of the Israeli occupation authorities say increased guerrilla attacks in Israel and abroad have scared off many visitors, especially Americans, and that tourism is at its lowest level for five years.

They said tourism from the United States dropped by 42 per

cent from January to October this year as compared to the same period in 1985. The number of European tourists fell by only six per cent.

As the holiday approaches, Israeli occupation forces in battle gear have stepped up patrols in Bethlehem, where Latin midnight mass will be celebrated on Christmas Eve in St. Catherine's Basilica above the Grotto of the Nativity.

It will be the 20th Christmas under Israeli military occupation in the West Bank town. Earlier this month, much of the region — including Bethlehem — erupted in the worst wave of anti-Israeli violence in years. Four Palestinians were killed and 22 wounded.

Mr. Freij said he expected several thousand visitors, most of them Europeans, in Bethlehem for the holiday. But he said the Americans will be missed because they are the biggest spenders.

"I would say that Bethlehem is the safest spot on earth," Mr. Freij said. "We haven't had any incidents whatsoever, especially against tourists."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mitterrand to spend Christmas in Egypt

PARIS (AP) — President Francois Mitterrand will be the guest of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during the Christmas holidays, the presidential palace announced Tuesday. Mr. Mitterrand was to leave later Tuesday and return on Dec. 28. The French president also spent the Christmas holidays in Egypt last year and visited the south of the country.

### Swedish soldier wounded in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — A Swedish peacekeeping soldier has been seriously wounded in cross fire during a clash in South Lebanon, a United Nations spokesman said Tuesday. The spokesman, Timor Goksel, identified the wounded soldier as 23-year-old Nages Rockler of the Swedish battalion serving with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Corporal Rockler was wounded Monday when a 13-vehicle UNIFIL convoy was caught in the cross fire of a clash between unidentified "armed elements" and Israeli-backed militiamen of the South Lebanon Army near the village of Yater. Goksel said.

### Kelly returns to Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Ambassador John Kelly has returned to the Lebanese capital after two weeks in Washington, an embassy official said Tuesday. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Kelly returned Monday. He refused to elaborate. Mr. Kelly was summoned to Washington by Secretary of State George Shultz to testify about knowledge he may have had about U.S. arms shipments to Iran.

### Kenya denies helping SPLA

NAIROBI (R) — Kenya's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday denied a Sudanese military commander's allegation that Kenya was helping rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Omar Fakih, head of the ministry's Africa division, told Reuters the allegation by the commander of Sudan's Equatoria province, General Abdul Rahman, was baseless. "Unless someone comes up with evidence, there's not much we can say... our policy since independence has been never to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries," he added. Gen. Abdul Rahman had said Kenya was helping the SPLA under the cover of relief operations.

### Iran to execute 5 'Iraqi agents'

TEHRAN (R) — Five Iraqi "agents" who were active in the south eastern province of Sistan and Baluchistan will be executed soon, Islamic Republic newspaper reported Tuesday. The paper quoted the province's revolutionary prosecutor, identified as Hosseini, as saying 12 "sell-out elements" were arrested during a four-week operation against outlaws and counter-revolutionaries in September and October. Quantities of weapons seized in the operation, including Iraqi and Egyptian-made arms, showed a direct connection between smugglers and outlaws with counter-revolutionary groups and the government of Iraq, Hosseini said. Eight of the 12 arrested were sentenced to death, he added. It was not clear from his remarks whether the eight included the five who were to be executed soon.

### Somalia goes to the polls

MOGADISHU (R) — Somalia was in a buoyant mood on Tuesday as voters cast ballots in an election that was bound to see President Mohammad Siad Barre re-elected for a second seven-year term. Mr. Siad Barre, 67, was the only candidate and officials predicted the electorate would return him with 99.9 per cent of the vote, about the same proportion as he won in the 1980 elections. Women supporters in colourful dress beat drums at polling stations and shouted "Haa Jaalle Siad (Yes to Comrade Siad)." Government workers were given the day off and Mogadishu Radio said long lines were forming outside polling booths. In the capital, home to a quarter of Somalia's population, voters lined up early under tight security, the radio said. In the provinces, all available transport, including camels, was mobilised to take ballot boxes to counting centres but complete results were not expected before Wednesday or Thursday. Mr. Siad Barre came to power in a bloodless military coup in 1969. He ruled as the head of a revolutionary council until 1976 when the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party was formed and later established a presidential constitution in 1980. In May he was seriously injured in a car crash, but survived to be endorsed as the presidential candidate by his party. In a pre-election interview with the party newspaper Ogaal, Mr. Siad Barre promised pay increases of up to 40 per cent for civil servants and pledged to reduce inflation and end corruption.

## TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 77311-19	15:00 News Summary
15:30 Koran	15:05 Women in Music Masters and Music
15:35 Koran	15:30 Music
16:10 Children's programme	15:35 News Desk
16:15 Scientific programme	15:40 Date with a Star
16:20 Thrill Maker Sports	15:45 Evening Show
17:30 A tale of two cities	15:50 News Summary
18:30 Local programme	15:55 Evening Show Continued
19:30 News in Arabic	16:00 News Summary
20:30 Message from Cairo	16:05 Evening Show Continued
20:40 Documentary on the Ministry of Education	16:10 Close Down
20:50 Arabic series	
22:25 Interview with the artist Durkai Lahan	
23:00 News in Arabic	

PROGRAMME TWO	18:00 'Des chiffres et des lettres'
18:30 Catherine	18:30 Catherine
19:00 News in French	19:00 News in French
19:15 'Aujourd'hui en Jordanie'	19:15 'Aujourd'hui en Jordanie'
19:30 News in Hebrew	19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 'Varieties'	19:45 'Varieties'
20:30 News in Arabic	20:30 News in Arabic
20:40 'Three's Company'	20:40 'Three's Company'
20:55 Documentary — Medical Mistakes	20:55 Documentary — Medical Mistakes
22:00 News in English	22:00 News in English
22:05 'Bratford' (eps. 4 & 5)	22:05 'Bratford' (eps. 4 & 5)
23:10 'Moonlighting'	23:10 'Moonlighting'
23:40 'Midnight Xmas news' live via satellite from the Vatican	23:40 'Midnight Xmas news' live via satellite from the Vatican

RADIO JORDAN	855 kHz AM & 99 MHz FM & 95.00 kHz SW
07:00 Light Music	07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk	07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show	08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary	08:30 News Summary
10:00 Morning Show Continued	10:00 Morning Show Continued
10:05 Country Music	10:05 Country Music
11:30 Songs from Movies	11:30 Songs from Movies
12:00 News Summary	12:00 News Summary
12:05 Guide to the Galaxy	12:05 Guide to the Galaxy
12:30 Pop Session	12:30 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary	13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Bulletin	13:05 Pop Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals	14:10 Instrumentals
14:15 Your Health	14:15 Your Health
15:00 Concert Hour	15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary	16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals	16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites	16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Jordan Weekly	17:00 Jordan Weekly
17:30 Pop Session	17:30 Pop Session

## WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An exhibition of architectural paintings of Iraq Al Amir by Francois Larche and Jean-Pierre Larche at the Architecture Gallery — Royal Centre, Jabal Amman (until Jan. 10).</li> <li>A cultural exhibition by the Islamic charitable society of Hebron (lectures, books, traditional embroidery) at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 24).</li> <li>A painting exhibition by Iraqi artist Widad Al Oudai at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.</li> <li>A painting exhibition entitled: "On the Banks of Jordan" at the Jordan National Gallery, Jabal Lweibdeh (until Jan. 23).</li> <li>A joint exhibition of paintings of "Jordan and Palestine" by Khader Na'im and Jalal Ereikat at the Perra Bank Gallery.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An exhibition of architectural paintings of Iraq Al Amir by Francois Larche and Jean-Pierre Larche at the Architecture Gallery — Royal Centre, Jabal Amman (until Jan. 10).</li> <li>A cultural exhibition by the Islamic charitable society of Hebron (lectures, books, traditional embroidery) at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 24).</li> <li>A painting exhibition by Iraqi artist Widad Al Oudai at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.</li> <li>A painting exhibition entitled: "On the Banks of Jordan" at the Jordan National Gallery, Jabal Lweibdeh (until Jan. 23).</li> <li>A joint exhibition of paintings of "Jordan and Palestine" by Khader Na'im and Jalal Ereikat at the Perra Bank Gallery.</li> </ul>
SOVIET FILMS	CULTURAL CENTRES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soviet film festival at the Soviet Cultural Centre (until Dec. 24).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Royal Cultural Centre: Tel. 661026/7</li> <li>American Centre: 664371</li> <li>American Centre library: 661520</li> <li>British Council: 6361778</li> <li>French Cultural Centre: 661993</li> <li>Goethe Institute: 661993</li> <li>Soviet Cultural Centre: 664371</li> <li>Soviet Cultural Centre (Syrian Orthodox): 661993</li> <li>Turkish Cultural Centre: 639777</li> <li>Hays Arts Centre: 661993</li> <li>Husseini Youth City: 667181/6</li> <li>Y.W.C.A.: 664723</li> <li>Amman Municipal Library: 637111</li> <li>University of Jordan Library: 843555</li> </ul>
MUSEUMS	PRAYER TIMES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Mariaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.</li> <li>Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Circled Hill).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>05:07 (Sunrise) Duha</li> <li>11:35 Duha</li> <li>14:19 'Asr</li> <li>16:04 Maghrib</li> <li>18:04 'Isha</li> </ul>

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)
<p>This information is supplied by Air Jordan International Airport tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.</p> <p>ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)</p> <p>09:00 Agaba (RJ)</p> <p>09:20 Cairo (RJ)</p> <p>09:30 Damascus (RJ)</p> <p>10:40 Kuwait (RJ)</p> <p>10:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)</p> <p>17:00 New York, Amsterdam, London (RJ)</p> <p>18:05 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)</p> <p>18:35 London, Geneva (RJ)</p> <p>18:45 Bangkok (RJ)</p> <p>19:15 Madrid, Belgrade (RJ)</p> <p>01:30 Bagdad</p>	<p>06:20 Frankfurt (LH)</p> <p>06:45 Damascus, Tripoli (PK)</p> <p>10:15 Damascus, Rome (AZ)</p> <p>10:30 Damascus (JY)</p> <p>12:30 Cairo (MS)</p> <p>12:45 Larnaca, Zurich (SR)</p> <p>14:00 Doha, Muscat (GF)</p> <p>15:00 Kuwait (KU)</p> <p>16:45 Medina, Jeddah (SV)</p> <p>19:30 Bagdad (IA)</p> <p>20:30 Sana'a (TV)</p>
MARITIME TRAFFIC	MONEY EXCHANGE
<p>Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:</p> <p>— Concord Bing</p> <p>— Kota Besar</p> <p>Amn Bazar and Sons Company, with its new offices in Shmeisani, at your service, tel. 603703/15.</p>	<p>Tuesday rates Local sell/buy rates in JLD</p> <p>Belgian franc: 35.8/ 35.9</p> <p>Dutch guilder: 154.2/ 156.6</p> <p>French franc: 53.1/ 53.9</p> <p>Italian lira: 25.1/ 25.5</p> <p>Japanese yen (for 100): 212.3/ 214.4</p> <p>Swiss franc: 50.1/ 50.7</p> <p>U.S. dollar: 207.6/ 211.7</p> <p>U.K. sterling pound: 497.5/ 502.5</p> <p>W. German mark: 345.4/ 348.3</p> <p>W. German mark: 174.3/ 177</p>
WEATHER	DEPARTURES
<p>Slight increase in temperature is expected with the appearance of clouds at different altitudes. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.</p> <p>Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.</p>	<p>ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)</p> <p>06:45 Agaba (RJ)</p> <p>11:30 New York (RJ)</p> <p>12:40 London (RJ)</p> <p>13:30 Cairo (RJ)</p> <p>14:40 Kuwait (RJ)</p> <p>16:45 Dubai, Bahrain (RJ)</p> <p>18:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)</p> <p>20:45 Kuwait, Doha (RJ)</p> <p>21:00 Bagdad (RJ)</p> <p>21:15 Jeddah (RJ)</p> <p>21:30 Cairo (RJ)</p>

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES	TAXIS
<p>Amman governorate: 891228</p> <p>Amman civil defence: 198, 199</p> <p>Civil Defence 1st: 271293, 273131</p> <p>Civil Defence 2nd: 771213</p> <p>Civil Defence 3rd: 77306</p> <p>Ambulance: 193, 775111</p> <p>Amman downtown fire brigade: 198</p> <p>First aid: 630341</p> <p>Blood bank: 771013</p> <p>Civil Defence rescue: 771013</p> <p>Fire headquarters: 622090-3</p> <p>Police rescue: 192, 621111, 637777</p> <p>Police headquarters: 639141</p> <p>Traffic police: 636991</p> <p>Electric Power Co.: 636381/4</p> <p>Municipal water complaints: 771258</p> <p>Queen Alia Int. Airport: (08)5330360</p>	<p>Kayyal taxi: 666090</p> <p>Taxi taxi: 644660</p> <p>Taxi taxi: 666417</p> <p>Amman taxi: 84241</p> <p>Raghib taxi: 64240</p> <p>Raghib taxi: 64240</p> <p>Sayed taxi: 776131</p>
HOSPITALS	IRBID:
<p>Husseini Medical Centre: 813813/32</p> <p>Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.: 644281/6</p> <p>Al-Hadi Maternity, J. Amn.: 64241/2</p> <p>Jabal Amman Maternity: 642362</p> <p>Malhas, J. Amman: 636140</p> <p>Palestine, Shmeisani: 664711/4</p> <p>Shmeisani Hospital: 845845/55</p> <p>University Hospital: 667227/9</p> <p>The Islamic, Amman: 661646/6</p> <p>Al-Hadi, Amman: 661646/6</p> <p>Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh: 77511/26</p> <p>Amy, Marjeh: 891611/15</p> <p>Queen Alia Hospital: 602240/30</p> <p>Amal Hospital: 674155</p>	<p>Dr. Mohamed Zuhair: 240816</p> <p>Dr. Mohamed Zuhair: 240816</p> <p>Al Aoudal pharmacy: 245171</p>
NIGHT DUTY	GENERAL
<p>AMMAN: Dr. Eisa Haddad: 897007</p>	<p>Jordan Television: 77311/19</p> <p>Radio Jordan: 77311/19</p> <p>Ministry of Tourism: 642311</p> <p>Petrol companies: 666417</p> <p>Petrol companies: 666417</p> <p>Telephone Information: 666417</p> <p>Jordan and Middle East calls: 19</p> <p>Veronica calls: 19</p> <p>Repair services: 19</p>
MARKET PRICES	
<p>Upper/lower price in JLD per kg.</p> <p>Apple (double red) 280/240</p> <p>Apple (golden) 280/240</p> <p>Banana 300/260</p> <p>Banana (Mukhammar) 250/220</p> <p>Beetroot 150/100</p> <p>Cabbage 120/80</p> <p>Carrot (black) 160/120</p> <p>Carrot (yellow) 160/120</p> <p>Cauliflower 120/80</p> <p>Chestnut 630/550</p> <p>Cumbers 430/380</p> <p>Eggplant (small) 220/180</p>	<p>Eggplant (large) 170/140</p> <p>Garlic 100/80</p> <p>Garlic 100/80</p> <p>Leemon 100/80</p> <p>Marrow 200/160</p> <p>Onion (dry) 180/140</p> <p>Onion (green) 140/100</p> <p>Orange (Samsani) 180/140</p> <p>Potato 80/60</p> <p>Pepper (green) 80/60</p> <p>Pepper (red) 80/60</p> <p>Spinach 210/</p>



## JVA awards local firm irrigation project contract

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) has awarded a contract to a local firm for carrying out an underground water-draining network required for the Ghor Al Safi irrigation project, and for setting up an earthen dam to stop the infiltration of flood waters from the Ghor Al Safi into the project. The cost of the project is estimated at JD 307,000.

Under the contract the local firm will provide a 55-kilometre network of pipes for the project to drain underground water; this will assist in reducing the soil from saline residues that harm the land. The porous pipes take down the water to the lower layers of the soil, under 6,000 dunums where

an agricultural project is now being carried out by the JVA.

The project is to be carried out in 300 days, according to Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani, JVA's secretary general who signed the contract with the firm's general manager.

Dr. Bani Hani said that the irrigation project for Ghor Al Safi in the southern Jordan Valley region will eventually extend to 27,000 dunums. It is one of the largest agricultural projects being implemented by the JVA along the eastern side of the Dead Sea from Ghor Mazraa in the north to Ghor Khanzira in the south.

Dr. Bani Hani said that the JVA will at a later stage set up similar networks in areas which suffer from high salinity in the soil.

## Jordanian industrial products to go on display in Muscat

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Trade Centres Corporation has announced that it will organise a Jordanian industrial and trade exhibition in Muscat, the capital of Oman, in the second half of the coming month.

A corporation spokesman said that Jordanian businessmen and industrialists wishing to take part in the exhibition are requested to register their names and the products they wish to display at the exhibit. He added that the corporation will later announce further details about the event.

He said that the exhibition is in implementation of an Oman-Jordanian trade agreement signed in February 1986.



Ghazi Abu Hassan

AMMAN — The Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (AMPCO) of Jordan has set a target of between JD 15 million and JD 20 million as the total volume of Jordanian agricultural produce for the year 1987 and also plans to expand its activities by setting up several new plants to facilitate the processing and movement of produce from the Kingdom.

Ghazi Abu Hassan, chairman and general manager of the company, said the major commodities included in the export programme would be fresh fruit and vegetables such as citrus, tomatoes, eggplants, beans, sweet pepper and squash and some specially-grown produce such as French beans, seedless grapes, red and yellow sweet pepper, netted melons and celeries.

For the first time since its inception, the AMPCO sent four consignments of produce, including eggplants, beans, sweet pepper and squash as well as citrus, to Britain this month. The fourth consignment was shipped from Aqaba on Tuesday, Mr. Abu Hassan said. The total volume of the four shipments was 30,000 tonnes.

In addition, the company sent 32,000 tonnes of produce to Kuwait this year. However, "our major market remains to be Syria, where we send tomatoes — processed as well as unprocessed — in bulk quantities," Mr. Abu Hassan said.

The total volume of tomatoes sent to Syria this year was 20,000 tonnes, he said, in addition to 3,000 tonnes each of lemon and orange and 5,000 tonnes of

## AAC made substantial profit despite troubles of carriers in region

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab Air Cargo (AAC) made a profit of JD 90,000 during its 1986 operations, despite losses for other airlines in the region, according to Mr. Ismail Khalil, AAC director general.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Mr. Khalil said that AAC plans to charter an additional aircraft in the coming year in order to meet the growing demand on air transport. In line with the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Association regulations AAC will modernise its fleet.

He said that AAC will get rid of its Boeing 707s because European airports plan to ban them from landing by the middle of the coming year due to their noise.

The total flights made by the AAC in the past year numbered 487, a total of 3,260 flying hours, transporting a total of 18,506 tonnes of food supplies, Mr. Khalil

pointed out.

Most of the operation were in Arab countries and the flights served the economic interests of both Iraq and Jordan, which jointly own the venture, Mr. Khalil pointed out.

He said that AAC remains open to all other Arab airlines which would like to acquire shares in it, because, he said, AAC aims at serving pan-Arab interests.

Referring to the future, Mr. Khalil said that he expected AAC to witness further growth in the coming year at the rate of at least 10 per cent, largely due to the wide support the company continues to get from the Jordanian and Iraqi governments.

He said that despite the prevailing difficult economic conditions, the AAC plans to seek new markets outside its traditional field of operations.

## Vocational trainees complete four-day term examinations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Students in the third secondary stage of the vocational training colleges and centres in Jordan Tuesday completed the first term of examination for the current

1986/87 scholastic year. Some 6,551 trainees of both sexes took the four-day examinations in the following areas: industry, commerce, agriculture, postal, nursing, and hotel management.

## Symposium on development plan to be held

AMMAN (Petra) — A symposium on the impact of implementing the 1986-1990 Five Year National Development Plan on the population of Jordan will open at the University of Jordan on Sunday. The three-day symposium, organised by the University of Jordan in cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, will discuss 10 working papers dealing with plan's effects on the population, according to Dr. Fawzi Sahawneh, professor at the university's faculty of art and head of a committee preparing the symposium.

He said that the participants will discuss five working papers on the first day, dealing with a general framework of the plan, its economic policies, health and educational projects, and their effects on the people. The second day will be dedicated to the discussion of four working papers that deal with the effect of the plan in increasing national income and promoting social standards of people, Dr. Sahawneh added.

He said on the third day the participants will discuss a development programme for the occupied Arab territories and the effect of that plan on employment prospects. Dr. Sahawneh called on all those interested in the five-year plan for both banks to attend the symposium.

Delegation to attend transport meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Ahmad Dakqan is due to leave for Baghdad on Saturday at the head of a delegation to attend the board meetings and general assembly of the Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company, due to open on Sunday. The meeting will discuss a report on the administrative and financial operations of the company, a plan for the future, as well as a general budget for 1987.

## ARA discusses tourism, fishing with South Sinai

AMMAN (Petra) — President of Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) Basam Al Kakish recently discussed with Governor of Southern Sinai Mohammed Afifi, and his accompanying delegation, prospects for reviving tourist movement between the Aqaba region and South Sinai region.

During a meeting held at ARA premises, Mr. Al Kakish and Mr. Afifi also discussed the possibility of organising collective tourist trips to the Egyptian Island of Farouk without the need for producing Jordanian passports.

Mr. Afifi, and the accompanying Egyptian delegation, also met with Aqaba District Governor Khalil Khreisat, and discussed with him possible cooperation between the South Sinai governorate and Aqaba region. They also reviewed the possibility of allowing Jordanian fishermen to fish in the neighbouring Egyptian waters.

The delegation then visited Aqaba municipality where Mr. Afifi was presented with the city's shield, and then toured Haya Al Hussein Hospital.

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## Jordan to celebrate Arbor Day with afforestation plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will celebrate Arbor Day on Jan. 15; the main celebration will be held under royal patronage near the Queen Alia International Airport, where a total of 5,000 olive and 2,000 palm tree saplings will be planted, in addition to at least 2,000 cypress trees, Mr. Ghaleb Abu Arrabi, director of the range and afforestation department at the Ministry of Agriculture announced Tuesday.

these trees is expected to be 90 per cent successful, up from 50 per cent in the previous season.

Mr. Abu Arrabi called on the Jordanian farmers to start planting fruit trees from now until the end of February, due to the presence of sufficient amounts of water in the soil at present.

Referring to the forest wealth in Jordan, Mr. Abu Arrabi said that a total of 574,000 dunums of Jordanian land are covered with forest trees and the wood of these trees is worth at least JD 32 million. The total area of land planted with fruit trees was 554,291 dunums last year, but more fruit trees have been grown on the higher lands; mostly olives and grapes within a Ministry of Agriculture project designed to be extended over 300,000 dunums, Mr. Abu Arrabi added.

He said that the Ministry of Agriculture now possesses 12 nurseries that can produce an average of seven million saplings a year, but the private sector owns 60 nurseries that can produce 600,000 saplings a year.

He said that upon His Majesty King Hussein's directives, most trees to be planted this year will be fruit trees; but, certain areas will be planted with forest trees during the current season.

The Ministry, in cooperation with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has worked out a plan for planting 25,000 dunums of land around the international airport with olive trees; those saplings to be planted on Jan. 15 will be the first batch of trees in the project, Mr. Abu Arrabi noted.

He said that the ministry's various nurseries this year produced nine million saplings, half of which will be planted during the Jan. 15 celebrations

that will be held in different governorates and districts of the Kingdom; the rest will be distributed to various organisations and the armed forces to be planted at their own convenience.

The Ministry of Agriculture has defined areas that will be planted with forest trees and is taking measures in cooperation with the provincial governors to provide protection for the young trees and for the first three years of their growth, Mr. Abu Arrabi added.

Referring to the current rainy season, Mr. Abu Arrabi said this year the Kingdom has witnessed heavy rain falls which will be very useful for the trees; the growth of

## Belgium to grant Jordan JD 2.5 million loan for spa complex at Ma'in springs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Belgium is to grant Jordan a JD 2.5 million loan to help finance a complex being built at Zarqa Ma'in mineral springs south of Madaba, under an agreement signed recently in Amman.

The loan will be used to finance the purchase and supply of equipment to be used in the project, according to a contract signed by Belgian company and the Jordanian Tourist and Mineral Water Company (JTMWC) which is undertaking the spa project. The equipment includes furniture, medical items for the therapeutic unit, and other requirements, according to the agreement.

Work on the project, which began in 1983, had to be suspended several times due to lack of funds. Last year, Mr. Fayez Abul Ghanam was appointed director of the project and a syndicated loan of JD 3 million was raised to carry on with the work. According to a JTMWC spokesman, the work will be completed by the middle of 1987.

According to plan, the project entails building a 100 room hotel, a camping area, offices, recreational baths, picnic sites, and public swimming pools.

The main purpose of the project is to create a comprehensive and integrated spa complex and tourist spot with sufficiently wide variety of facilities to ensure a reasonable degree of self sufficiency and to satisfy the needs of different income-level visitors.

The project was estimated to have an overall cost of JD 13 million, of which JD 7 million were raised through the floating of bonds and from the Belgian loan.

The loan agreement was signed by Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and a representative of the Belgian government.

## Dr. Ghaith Shubailat

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon

Announces the new location of his private clinic.

Jabal Amman, Ibn Khaldoun str. Near Khalidi Hospital  
Tel. Clinic 6-4700-6-4900

## 'Camps war' drags on

(Continued from page 1)

Implement these resolutions and the Arab League would meet again on Jan. 14 to review the results of its mission, the communiqué said.

The special committee is made up of Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Kuwait, Mauritania, North Yemen and Mr. Klibi.

It was given the mission of implementing the earlier resolution calling for an "immediate and global" ceasefire in the camps in Beirut and South Lebanon, the lifting of the siege, the re-supply of the camps, the return of people driven from their homes and the release of prisoners.

Delegation sources told AP Saudi Arabia declined to take part in the special committee, noting that it already was taking its own diplomatic steps to achieve a halt in the fighting. Libya also declined to take part.

At a date yet to be fixed, the special committee will go to Damascus to ask the Syrian leadership to intervene with the Amal militia involved in the fighting.

Several ceasefires mediated by Syrian, Iranian and Libyan officials have failed to halt the savage battles for control of Palestinian refugee settlements.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat says Syria is trying to drive Palestinians from Lebanon, while Damascus and Amal say Mr. Arafat is trying to expand his military power in the country.

In Baghdad, a PLO spokesman said Syrian forces were responsible for what he called a massacre in the northern city of Tybri last week.

Police and Tripoli residents denied reports that hundreds of people were killed in three days of fighting between Syrian troops and members of the Tawheed militia.

Lebanese media said about 30 people died in the battles.

Syria, which has about 25,000 troops in Lebanon, first sent military units into Tripoli in September last year after its militia allies fought the fundamentalist Tawheed in the streets.

In Washington, the United States on Monday expressed concern at the continuing violence in Lebanon and said only the Lebanese government could guarantee the security of Lebanese and Palestinian civilians.

"There is no convincing argument for the presence of any other armed force," a spokesman Phyllis Oakley said in a statement.

"The United States views with intense concern the continuing violence in Lebanon," Oakley said.

She said the past 11 years of civil war had made clear that no faction, Lebanese or Palestinian, could assure the safety of civilians by force.

"Rather, the presence of armed elements has virtually guaranteed that civilians will continue to be victimised, either by the enemies of their alleged protectors, or by the protectors themselves."

She said the United States called on all parties to permit international humanitarian organisations access to the Palestinian camps and other areas where their assistance was urgently needed.

## Iraq to keep up pressure

(Continued from page 1)

attacking residential areas. A military spokesman said Monday that Iranian claims of civilian deaths "were to justify the daily shelling of Iraqi residential areas."

A group of Palestinians threw the bomb at a passing bus in the occupied West Bank village of Beit Sabur, the sources told AP.

Soldiers travelling in the bus opened fire on the group and then chased the attackers, calling on them to stop. When the attackers failed to halt, the soldiers opened fire, wounding one, the sources said.

In another development, the Israeli authorities banned distribution of a Palestinian newspaper in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for two weeks because it violated

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## Israeli army may change policy

(Continued from page 1)

killings. Samer Makhram and two brothers, Omar and Hamza Zaid, all in their early 20s and residents of the town of Jenin, were convicted of killing Elihu Amedi.

A Palestinian was shot by Israeli soldiers after he allegedly threw a bottle bomb Monday at a bus near Bethlehem, Israeli sources said.

A group of Palestinians threw the bomb at a passing bus in the occupied West Bank village of Beit Sabur, the sources told AP.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM TOYOTA

TOYOTA

Ismail Bilbeisi & Co.







# Rifai assures deputies of Jordan's creditworthiness

(Continued from page 1)

government's subsidy for these organisations, specially those that will eventually generate their own income and become independent. The performance of these organisations within the framework of special laws will allow them sufficient flexibility to function on sound basis. But any amendment of these laws could deprive these organisations of their financial and administrative independence and could bring about an imbalance in their capability to achieve this goal. Nevertheless, the Royal Commission for the Development of Civil Service in Jordan is now considering linking some of these organisations with ministries, and we will report to Parliament details of the commission's findings.

Second: Studies and research. The Financial Committee has recommended a reduction of the expenses on studies and research except those spent on oil and mineral exploration. I would like to explain the following points in this regard:

"A) The new five-year plan includes numerous development projects which require study and research for determining their feasibility. What has been allocated in the 1987 budget is only three per cent of the capital expenditure, which is less by 1.3 per cent of the total volume of the 1987 budget.

"B) Part of the allocations for the studies and research covers the cost of design and supervision of implementation of these projects. "C) The government was careful to give priority in these studies for the designs and the supervision to be carried out by local engineering and consultancy offices and so most of the allocations will be spent in Jordan.

"D) The government supports the Financial Committee's recommendation to try to reduce expenses by depending on the skills and experience of the government's technical services and departments, and will try to implement this recommendation as best as it can.

Third: Loans to municipal and village councils.

The Financial Committee has submitted a recommendation linking interest due from these councils to their contribution in the electrification of rural region and demanded that the due interest be reduced and rescheduled for easier repayment. Here, I would like to point out that the financial problems which these councils have been suffering from and their root causes are various and are not related only to the electrification of rural regions. Financial difficulties arose due largely to these councils' desire to purchase land and build schools and roads etc. These commitments were not paralleled with sufficient effort on the part of these councils to collect their debts and raise sufficient funds and so the loans and interest accumulated, with the result that these councils' income was far less than their financial commitments with adverse consequences to their projects.

"But the government realised these problems and helped reduce the financial burden of these councils by taking upon itself the cost of building roads and maintaining them. The government intends to increase its share in the construction of schools and has set up a committee to study the councils' financial situation to help them continue to operate on sound basis. This committee will submit its study to the Cabinet for endorsement.

Fourth: Economic and financial policy. "A) The Financial Committee has recommended an amendment to the general debts law Number (1) of 1971 for considering foreign debts on the same level with internal debts in terms of placing a ceiling for external debt is not in the interest of the Kingdom for the following reasons: "Most external loans are on long and easy terms and they were used for implementing development projects. Therefore, imposing a ceiling for funds needed for investments will curtail the implementation of income-generating projects and will directly affect the rates of growth and economic and social developments as a whole, including projects in the five-year plans for the East and West Banks.

"Failure by Arab countries to honour their financial commitment to Jordan has caused an imbalance and delayed the repayment of external loans. Therefore, the government was forced to resort to external loans in order to maintain its credibility and was forced to shoulder additional interests.

"The impact of the external loans on the national economy is reflected in a proportion with the exports and services and this amounted to 12.4 per cent in 1986 far below the internationally recognised dangerous line which is 20 per cent. The government has however made it a point to make its annual external loans less than the annual premiums and interests on the loans.

"B) The Financial Committee referred to the problem of unemployment. I emphasise that the government is keen on handling this issue through a programme of investments within the five-year plan which will eventually make available 100,000 jobs, in addition to other available means. The government has carried out a great deal of effective measures in vocational training to meet the requirements of national development and is giving special training to engineers and physicians. The government has formed a ministerial committee to study the effects of the unemployment problem and provide solutions.

"The countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council have told us of their desire to keep Jordanian workers and help us to open new markets to absorb Jordanian manpower.

"C) The Financial Committee has urged the government to suppress expenses so that funds can be made available for financing capital projects through local revenues. The government is grateful for the recommendation and promises to control expenses. "However, it should be pointed out that the 1987 budget underlines the fact that local revenues are, for the first time, equal to current expenses and this is a great achievement, and we hope to raise more funds to finance capital expenditure.

"D) The government approves of the committee's recommendation calling for confining the Ministry of Supply's role to trading in basic commodities. The government is about to finalise a draft law on supply which would define the commodities which the ministry should deal with. This law will be submitted to Parliament.

"As to the remark on commercial dealings by the Ministry of Supply, I would like to point out that these dealings are

considered as part of the public fund. Details of the trading operations appear in the 1987 general budget. But I would like to point out that the trading account was introduced to take care of the operations pertaining to strategic storage of basic commodities for the country and the government's own warehouses in accordance with Article 114 of the Constitution.

"E) As to the JD 25 million referred to in the budget and which will be spent in accordance with a decision by the Cabinet, I say that this sum is part of the investment programme which the government announced this year to stimulate economic activity in the Kingdom through expediting the process of spending on projects included in the current five-year plan, specially those covering building of schools and health centres and giving loans to organisations and housing projects for families with limited income and building government complexes in different provinces.

"Finally I would like to say that the government is seeking to create an opportune investment climate to find a suitable basis for giving momentum to the development process and to deal with the pressing economic issues. "The government is seeking to strengthen the local productive foundation of the country and attract national savings and attract Arab and foreign capital to boost the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves and maintain the strength of the dinar.

"Fifth: The agricultural sector. "Before commenting on the committee's recommendations on the agricultural sector, I would like to point out that the agriculture sector's share in the budget JD 42.6 million. Most of this amount will benefit capital agriculture expenditure. This amount is nearly 10 per cent of the budget.

"Now I would like to point out the following: "A) The government approves the committee's recommendation which calls for coordinating the activities of the public organisations specialising in the agriculture sector and support a call for cancelling dual performance in their operations. The government also wants to define these organisations' relations with the Ministry of Agriculture, and this subject is in the hands of the Royal Commission for developing the Civil Service system in the country.

"B) Concerning the reduction of the cost of agriculture production and the building of roads, (to help farmers), the government has been expanding its operations in producing saplings in different regions and selling them at reasonable prices to the farmers. The government has reduced the cost of electricity by 20 per cent and set new tariffs for power used in agriculture projects. The Ministry of Agriculture is constantly controlling production and helping the farmers and providing subsidy for them to encourage them to pursue their work despite seasonal fluctuations, bottlenecks in marketing and the high cost of production. A programme will be worked out for building roads in farming areas or different provinces.

"C) The government is concerned with the marketing of agricultural products and will enact a new law for the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) in the coming weeks. The ACC will supervise the marketing operations and will

organise the relationship between the different parties in the marketing process. "We have already started to deal with the bottlenecks in the marketing process by embarking on the agricultural pattern system and providing encouraging prices for basic crops and establishing food processing industries. "D) Animal wealth is being given due care and support in the agricultural sector. The government reduced the prices of barley and maize and established a company to handle the slaughter of poultry. This year we seem to have a lot of rain which foretells of a bountiful harvest and we have already started growing crops in large areas of lands.

"Sixth: The services sector. "A) The government shares with the Financial Committee its concern over developing rural regions and remote areas and this has been given priority in the five-year plan and is clear in the 1987 budget.

"B) The government supports the committee's call for speeding up the implementation of water and health projects and instructions have been given to the concerned authorities in this concern. "C) The Housing Corporation has stopped setting up expensive housing estates and is now concentrating its efforts on housing projects for employees and for people with limited income.

"D) The government supports the recommendations on confining to a single corporation the task of planning work and setting specifications for computers to be bought by ministries and other organisations. This is what the National Committee on Technology and Science is trying to do.

"E) Social development is an integral part of comprehensive development and is based on two concepts: Helping the needy families financially and providing means for setting up small projects for the needy. This is the work of

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"On what has been said on unemployment, I can say that the presence of non-Jordanian workers in the country does not create unemployment. The unemployment in Jordan is a direct result of the reluctance by Jordanians to take up jobs now filled by non-Jordanians. The government has issued strict instructions to all businesses to give priority in employment to Jordanians and to tighten control over non-Jordanian workers employed in the country to ensure they were doing jobs for which they were brought here.

"On what has been said about the hospitals of Karak and Tafleh, I say that an amount of JD 500,000 has been allocated in the budget for Tafleh Hospital and the cost of Karak Hospital will be shared by the Italian and the Jordanian governments.

"Regarding the Public Security Department's (PSD) purchase of West German Audi cars, the truth is that the department bought 240 cars and not 400 vehicles as was suggested by Deputy Akaleh.

"The purchase of these Audi cars, in addition to other necessary equipment, purchased by the Armed Forces and the PSD, was deemed necessary to upgrade the standard of the Armed Forces

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"The privatisation scheme will commence by transforming the status of the public-owned institution into a public shareholding company with all its shares owned by the public sector. At a later stage, parts of these shares might be sold to the private sector. The reasons behind the privatisation scheme is to allow these companies to operate in an atmosphere of flexibility in order to rely on its own revenues instead of depending on the treasury in areas related to its financing.

"It is regrettable to hear such talks in Parliament, especially about subjects that are void of sound source but based on rumours designed to sow dissension. There is no truth in what has been said about the government's intention to transform public organisations into private companies in response to recommendations by international agencies or foreign funds. We never had such recommendations by any one. All the plans have been the result of the government's initiatives.

"I must emphasise that the government will study the definite demands and requests made by the deputies and will respond to whatever possible of them. "The government is thankful to the deputies and the members of the Financial Committee for their efforts and I pledge that this government will continue to exert efforts for implementing resolutions passed by Parliament based on the provisions of the Constitution."

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"On coordinating the government's efforts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the development plan for the occupied territories, I say that the government has already invited the PLO to participate in the development conference which was held in Amman but the PLO declined to come, though on earlier occasions it had given its consent to the plan.

"As to the remarks of Deputy Riad Al Nawaiseh about this plan for the West Bank, I would say that this was occurred in the speech from the throne and was

supported by Parliament in the reply to that speech and was earlier endorsed by the PLO while coordination was going on with the Jordanian government. The plan was also approved by all Arab and friendly nations which took part in the Amman development conference this year. "As to Mr. Nawaiseh's reference to the plan as being an American-Zionist plan, I say this is something that does not deserve any reply and can only be described as some form of outbidding and nonsense only aimed at serving certain objectives. These remarks are not based on firm foundations nor are they founded on national stands and they definitely do not serve national interests.

"On what has been said on unemployment, I can say that the presence of non-Jordanian workers in the country does not create unemployment. The unemployment in Jordan is a direct result of the reluctance by Jordanians to take up jobs now filled by non-Jordanians. The government has issued strict instructions to all businesses to give priority in employment to Jordanians and to tighten control over non-Jordanian workers employed in the country to ensure they were doing jobs for which they were brought here.

"On what has been said about the hospitals of Karak and Tafleh, I say that an amount of JD 500,000 has been allocated in the budget for Tafleh Hospital and the cost of Karak Hospital will be shared by the Italian and the Jordanian governments.

"Regarding the Public Security Department's (PSD) purchase of West German Audi cars, the truth is that the department bought 240 cars and not 400 vehicles as was suggested by Deputy Akaleh.

"The purchase of these Audi cars, in addition to other necessary equipment, purchased by the Armed Forces and the PSD, was deemed necessary to upgrade the standard of the Armed Forces

figures which are not even based on the simplest basis of financial rules. "Touching on what has been raised during the discussions over the privatisation of a number of public companies into companies, we have constantly and continuously declared that the transformation of the companies' status will commence on a gradual basis and after thoroughly studying the case of each of the companies.

"The privatisation scheme will commence by transforming the status of the public-owned institution into a public shareholding company with all its shares owned by the public sector. At a later stage, parts of these shares might be sold to the private sector. The reasons behind the privatisation scheme is to allow these companies to operate in an atmosphere of flexibility in order to rely on its own revenues instead of depending on the treasury in areas related to its financing.

"It is regrettable to hear such talks in Parliament, especially about subjects that are void of sound source but based on rumours designed to sow dissension. There is no truth in what has been said about the government's intention to transform public organisations into private companies in response to recommendations by international agencies or foreign funds. We never had such recommendations by any one. All the plans have been the result of the government's initiatives.

"I must emphasise that the government will study the definite demands and requests made by the deputies and will respond to whatever possible of them. "The government is thankful to the deputies and the members of the Financial Committee for their efforts and I pledge that this government will continue to exert efforts for implementing resolutions passed by Parliament based on the provisions of the Constitution."

the National Aid Fund and the objective of the Ministry of Social Development.

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# Lower House members debate objectives and scope of 1987 budget

The following are major excerpts from speeches delivered by Lower House deputies during yesterday's debate on the national budget for 1987:



Mufeed Mubaslat (Nablus)

"The new budget aims at reducing expenditure and the deficit in the balance of payment and this reflects the government's keenness on achieving self-sufficiency in Jordan and developing local resources which in turn would stimulate the national economy."

"I appreciate the government's endeavours in this respect and also support its efforts to involve the private sector in the process of boosting the economy."

"We also support the proposed projects in the budget despite the adverse elements that have affected the economies of the Middle East countries. We also support the government's endeavours for boosting the power of the Armed Forces which forms a protecting shield for the nation and the government's plans to promote the educational, health, and public services in the occupied Arab territories."



Tahseen Al Faris (Nablus)

"King Hussein has said that people of the two banks of Jordan are in the same boat confronting the same challenges and dangers... and this places serious responsibility on officials and citizens in the East and West Banks. It should be said there can be no Palestine without Jordan and no Jordan without Palestine since the two peoples from one family and therefore should join hands to confront the Zionists and their expansionist policies."

"It is clear that Israel will not give anything to Jordan but is pursuing a policy of evicting the indigenous population, a policy which would bring a disaster to Jordan which cannot cope with waves of migrant Palestinians. For this reason and as a matter of self-defence I believe the Jordanian government should extend all possible help and assistance to the people of the occupied Arab territories to thwart enemy plans."

"Since the people of the occupied West Bank are Jordanian citizens the government ought to extend public services to them and should ease measures that have been obstructing the West Bankers from travelling across the bridges."

"We support the Jordanian government and we seek to protect this country's security and its people and we support the unity of the two peoples under the leadership of His Majesty King

Hussein. "We call on the government to set up effective departments in the West Bank to ensure effective health, agricultural, educational and developmental services. We support the five-year plan for the occupied territories which, if translated into reality, will revive hopes in the hearts of the Arab people under Israeli rule."



Edward Khamis (Bethlehem)

"Although Jordan enjoys a great deal of security and stability, I would like to point out that there are various parties trying to undermine the stability and security of the Kingdom."

"One of these parties is based in the occupied territories and its members are known to be agents for the Israeli occupation. This party is notorious as stooges and mercenaries for external forces."

"The task of the second party, which is based outside the occupied territories, is trading the Palestinian cause and national cause for its own interests. What is more crucial on the country is the third party, based in the country, which never ceases to spread rumours geared to undermine the stability and security of the Kingdom. Members of this party can only be described as seeking to hold a portfolio in the cabinet even if the path to the post in question shall jeopardise public interests."

"There is a point to be raised here and that is the crime and punishment principle, which is not being implemented correctly. It is a wrong policy when hypocrites and instigators are commended by the government and those who show sincere nationalism to the country are put on the shelf."

"This country stands out to be one where freedom and democracy are considered less than those attained in other states of the Middle East. However, we seek more of freedom of expression, thought, press and opinion within the limits that the constitution allows."

"As for the local press, I am sorry to say it is not efficient to the extent of reflecting the up-to-date developments. Nevertheless, if the people want to obtain information on certain developments they resort to foreign media in order to know of the real version of the course of events in question."

"The Arab World is in a deep coma and the Palestinian refugees are under continuous assault in Lebanon. The Israeli flag is hoisted over vast Arab lands and the Persian (Iranian) flag has found a base in Lebanon. There may come a time when both banners have been hoisted over some Arab capitals."

"In order to curb further deterioration in the current Arab situation, I appeal to the Palestinian people to shun side differences in favour of total solidarity and to refuse to bow to domination by any external power. The Palestinian people should act independently and join hands with Jordan in order to

secure the common goal. "The Palestinian people must understand that they have become an experiment zone for conspiracies against their existence by some Arab regimes and imperialism."

"Having gone through the 1987 budget, I find out that the government has sought practical and realistic figures and avoided astronomical numbers."

"I wish to extend my appreciation to the government for allocating funds in the 1987 budget to develop the occupied territories."



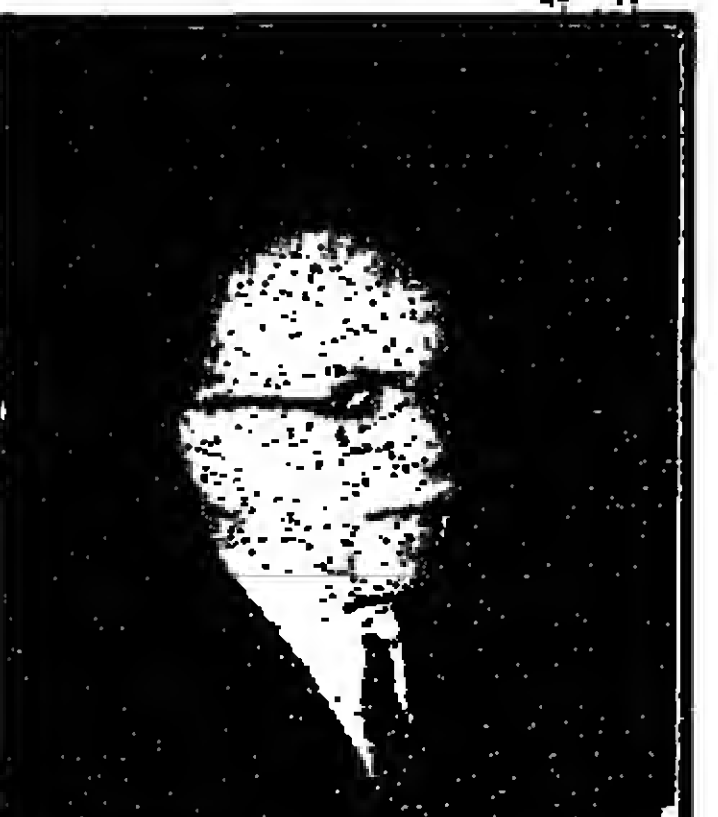
Fayyad Jarrar (Jenin)

"The 1987 fiscal budget is to be commended specially as it is being planned at a time when the Arab region witnesses unfavourable economic developments. The various elements of the budget reflect confidence and sound planning; therefore I approve the budget as it was submitted to the House and support the government's efforts."

"This budget proves that the government is exerting efforts to boost the might of the Armed Forces and recruiting and training the People's Army and also civil defence and public security."

"It is clear from the budget that the government is seeking to ensure food security in the country through developing agriculture and helping farmers and reclaiming land and is seeking to ensure further investments from Arab and foreign countries in Jordan."

"The government is now implementing a five-year development plan in the East Bank and plans to implement a similar one in the occupied Arab territories. This policy is a translation of the true unity between the two banks and is bound to bolster the cohesion between the two peoples."



Hafez Abdul Nabi (Hebron)

"I appreciate the work of the House Financial Committee and its recommendations with regard to the budget. We can see that the budget is abound with projects that are aimed at bolstering the social and economic sectors in the country."

"The people of the occupied Arab territories are steadfast in the face of Israel's measures and they are awaiting the implementation of the Jordanian-sponsored five-year plan which is bound to bolster their steadfastness and alleviate their sufferings."

"The people of the occupied

Arab territories are thankful to the government for its help in marketing their crops in Jordan and in the other Arab states and call on the government to help them deal with the unemployment problem which mainly affects university graduates."

"The people of the occupied Arab territories request the government to grant them annual permits to come to the East Bank for work."

"The people of the West Bank request the government to allow them to cross the border into Egyptian territory through Rafah and Al Arish — a measure that is being allowed to the people of the Gaza Strip — now that Jordan's political and economic relations with Egypt have been resumed as normal. This will help boost the steadfastness of the Arab people and will save them unnecessary expenses of travelling to Egypt through other means."

"West Bank employees appointed to their posts after the 1967 war hope that the Jordanian government pay them salaries that can improve their living conditions."

"Employees appointed in the West Bank before the 1967 war and whose salaries were frozen between 1971 and 1974 hope that the government release their frozen salaries."

"A quick look at the budget figures reveals that the interest which the government intends to pay on internal loans amounts to JD 23 million and interest on external loans amounts to JD 44.235 million, a total of JD 67.235 million. I believe that this country can get loans without paying interest like those loans obtained from the Islamic Development Bank."



Jalal Al Qallab (Bani Hassan)

"I support the wise policies of His Majesty the King and that of his government and praise efforts being made for strengthening the Armed Forces and public security."

"I wish to express deep gratitude to the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), especially Saudi Arabia, for their continued financial assistance to Jordan and also for their support for Iraq which is now defending the eastern borders of the Arab Nation."

"I support the government's efforts in implementing projects and the allocations made for them in the 1987 budget but I wish to make the following remarks:

"First I call on the government to do more towards stemming the migration of people from rural to urban regions and it can do this by providing the essential services and work for the unemployed."

"It is true that water, electricity and communications are available but we need income-generating projects to help keep the people in their land."

"Second, schools have been made available in every village and town in the rural and urban regions but we need to have more qualified people to offer education in 'model schools' in our rural regions."

"Third, we demand that integrated health centres be established and sports and youth centres set up to help keep our younger generation close to their community."

"Fourth, we demand that the government reduce the cost of agricultural production by reducing the prices of seeds and fertilisers and also fuel and we ask that roads be built to facilitate the marketing of our produce."

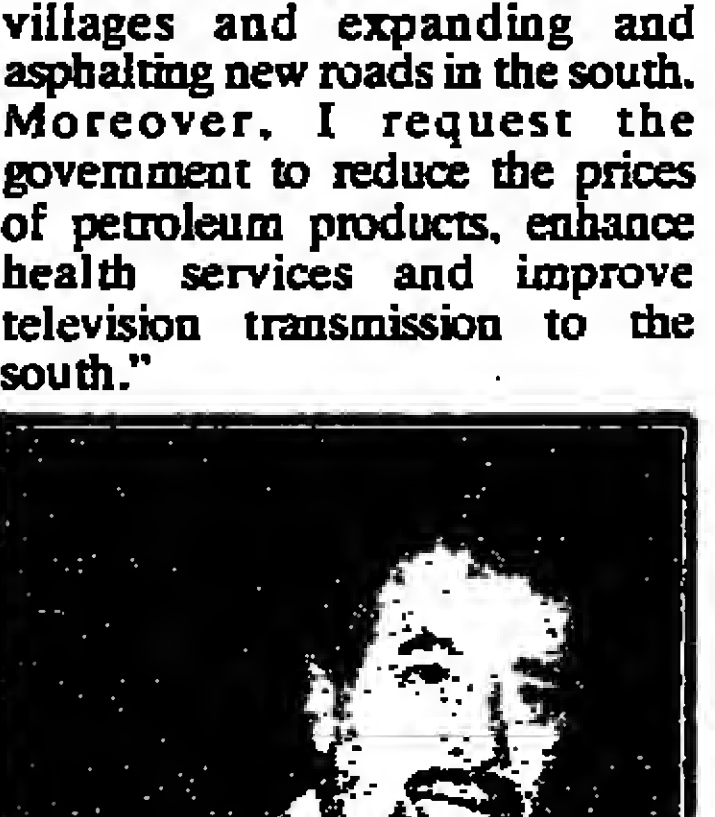
"I demand that the government reduce the prices of oil products as their prices have now dropped worldwide and call on government to help remove the danger threatening the villages and towns around the Khirbet Al Samra wastewater treatment plant because their inhabitants are complaining from bad smell and insects that carry diseases."



Faisal Al Jazi (Bedouins of the south)

"In my viewpoint the 1987 budget is well planned and designed to cope with the Kingdom's needs and expenditures."

"Nevertheless, I call on the government to extend further efforts towards developing the southern regions of the Kingdom by digging artesian wells for irrigation, providing electricity to villages and expanding and asphalted new roads in the south. Moreover, I request the government to reduce the prices of petroleum products, enhance health services and improve television transmission to the south."



Fawzi Shaker (Tafleh)

"I believe the permanent deficit in the budget is due to over-expenditure on the internal front and to external links and factors affecting our economy. There is no way out of this dilemma except through planning for a healthy economy which depends on our internal capabilities and resources and which is free from external factors, especially foreign loans. By doing this, we can help the state to avoid any foreign pressures and influences that contradict our national and pan-Arab aims. This also requires us to strengthen our Armed Forces by supplying them with modern weapons from friendly countries with infringing upon our sovereignty."

"We should expend special efforts to get out from the economic recession that has hit us hard, particularly in the last three years. Many Third World countries have been hit by economic recessions, especially in our Arab region. This appears to be a part of an American-Zionist-Imperialist plot which aims at vanquishing the Arab will and steadfastness in favour of imposing surrealist political deals on us."

"I urge that we work towards avoiding dependence on foreign loans which increase our foreign debts and which constitute a heavy burden on this country's future. We can do this by establishing productive projects (industrial and agricultural) that depend on national expertise and manpower, and by undertaking educational programme that aim at quenching thirst for individual and selfish consumption."

"Our farmers are suffering, I think this is due to snags in

marketing, because there is a big difference between what the farmer gets for his produce and the market price. Here I ask: "Who benefits from this? Is it the rich farmers, or the middleman, or the poor citizen, or any other party unknown to us?" Here is one example for you: In the past few weeks a kilogramme of tomatoes sold for 450 fils in the market, while the farmer was selling a whole box of tomatoes (8-10 kilos) for 500-700 fils. That's why I would like to go back to a proposal I made last year, and that's the government should open the door for the farmer to market his produce to the market directly. As for government support for the agricultural sector, I would like to ask whether this support has been distributed fairly and evenly."

"In the industrial field, I understand that in advanced countries protectionist measures benefit the producer and the consumer equally. But here the case seems to be different. Products of those local industries that have been protected have shot up in price, despite the fact that the price of oil and labour wages have gone down."

"I therefore urge a reconsideration of the protectionist measures that have been taken by the government and request that the door be opened for establishing new local industries that have been studied."

"I fully support the national exploration programmes for oil. We should develop this programme, giving priority to employing national expertise and manpower. I also call for lowering the price of fuel and electricity for citizens."

"The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has been doing very well, and I wonder why it is being considered for privatisation at a time when it has been making good profit. Could we not save the \$6 million that we spent on the cost of study for its privatisation? As to expanding the railroad network that will carry our phosphates exports, I hope that it could be done at a lower cost, or in barter for phosphates. As to modernising our airlines, I think the step comes at a time when we need all our efforts towards revitalising the economy and not to burden it with more foreign loans."

"In the field of education, I demand that we open more universities and work towards expanding the existing ones, so that all students have the chance to study here and not abroad. This would save the Treasury a lot of money. Also, I call on the government to do justice unto all students who wish to join a university. This should be done through either cancelling exemptions for some students or reducing the number of those exemptions."

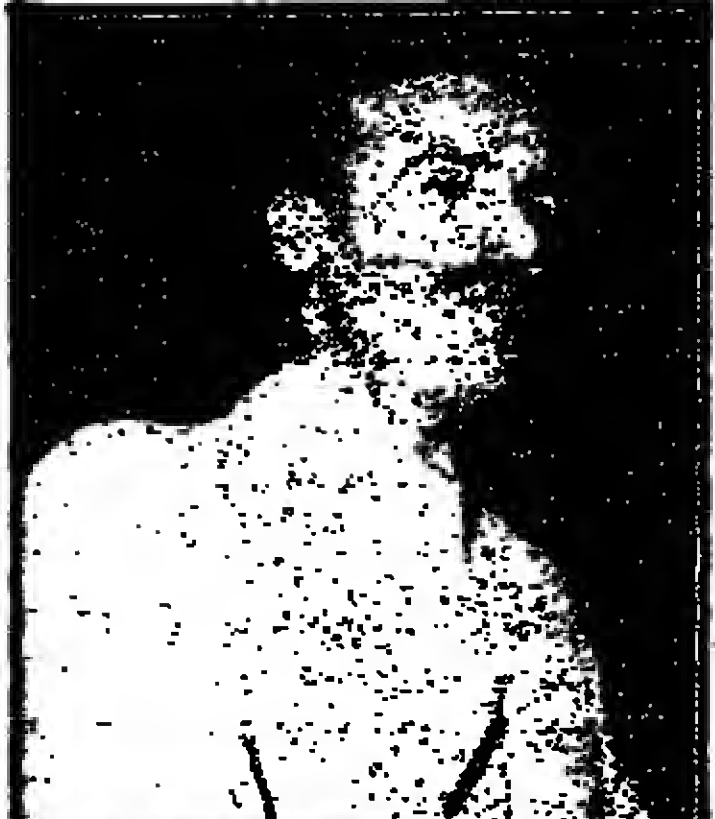
"On the development plan for the West Bank, I would like to ask a number of questions: — "What are its effects on the Jordanian economy? — "How would the plan affect development projects in the West Bank? Will the Zionist enemy agree to such projects if they are going to help the Palestinians steadfast and stay on their land? — "Why was this plan — whose aim is nationalistic and legitimate — not executed in cooperation with leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people?"

"In the field of information, we have noticed that information media have not been playing their role in educating citizens. I demand that the media be given a major role within a clear information policy to educate the citizen socially, culturally and economically. The field of information should be a forum for objective and responsible dialogue, without imposing restrictions on freedoms of speech and publication. This is the least we could do in the absence of political parties and organisations which believe in the constitution under the leadership of His Majesty."

"I regret that the government is not giving its full attention to the youth sector. Those who study the government's programme carefully would notice the absence of an integrated plan for the youth of our country who are the backbone of society."

"In the field of Arab economic cooperation, and in treatment of Arab nationals in the various Arab countries, we wonder why Jordanians do not get a fair treatment like other Arab nationals are fairly treated in Jordan."

"To build a strong Jordan, all efforts should be made to achieve Arab solidarity. This should be done by stopping the war against Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and by stopping the Iran-Iraq war. I call upon the government to work towards strengthening inter-Arab relations as the only way to confront the Israeli enemy."



Abdullah Al Akayleh (Tafleh)

"A close look at the draft budget reveals a number of issues that must be addressed."

"State debts: State debts, especially foreign debts, is in a state of an upward surge. Most of the loans are of high interest rates; and compared to our financial capability to fulfil our obligations, those loans are becoming intolerable, especially in these times when the country is passing through hard times. The debts of JD 1 billion and debt service, that in 1987 amounts to JD 168.2 million, are both intolerable and call for an immediate revision of our borrowing policies at this stage of high interest rate. This House, in 1985, agreed to form with the government a delegation to visit Arab and Islamic countries to seek interest-free Islamic-type loans."

"Stability of the dinar: The holding of the dinar while other currencies are declining is a satisfying fact, and it reflects in Jordanian expatriates' faith and confidence in the national currency."

"The draft budget for 1987 has stated that had it not been for past commitments that accumulated since the beginning of the 70s, the 1986 budget would have seen a surplus. I ask the government what are these commitments and how much would have been the surplus? And meanwhile, I learned that about JD 95 million had been saved from fuel costs due to the collapse of oil prices. The draft budget does not show this nor does it show where the government intends to spend it. And does the government intend to keep oil prices as they are? It is not unreasonable that Jordanians should continue to pay for petrol double the international price considering the hardships they are passing through."

"Unemployment: We all know that unemployment is on the increase. The Civil Service Commission and the ministries and government departments are being flooded by jobseekers. A greater part of my job as a deputy, and I am sure of yours too, is being devoted to citizens seeking work. What did the government plan for remedying this pressing problem? We know that a government commission was formed for this purpose, but we did not hear anything on any progress in this direction. I call on the government to initiate projects that would absorb the highest number of job seekers."

"Support for the Armed Forces: We believe that all our developmental progress and our existence depend highly on our Armed Forces and in equipping them with the latest types of equipment to enhance their fighting capability for deterring the Zionist enemy. We therefore see no increase in the Armed Forces allocations although this House has taken a decision to this effect."

"Education: There is of course another 'army' in this country; I mean the army of teachers. I call on the government to better their living condition, for they are the carrier of the noblest message: that of educating our youth, our future generations."

"Health: The government has announced the allocation of JD 12 million for hospitals. Out of that amount only half a million is allocated for Tafleh hospital, a sum that is barely enough for making studies. Tafleh hospital is the governorate's number-one priority and therefore, call on the government to increase its allocations for that vital project."

"The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA): I have noticed that a sum of JD 2.23 million has been allocated for JVA research and studies. I find this to be an enormous sum and ask the government to entrust the authority's members to carry on such projects. There has been much talk about the authority's distribution of land lots. I ask the government to provide this House with a list of land allocations in the Jordan Valley."

"The TCC: The TCC was allocated JD 20 million in the same time when the government was talking of privatising the corporation. I also question the philosophy behind privatising the TCC which generates an annual income of JD 35 million to the treasury. What could be the sole concern of a telephone company except to make profit?"

"I think the trend behind the privatisation of public concerns follows directives from U.S. AID. U.S. AID reports on Jordan advice that aid to Jordan should be directed to private enterprises rather to the public sector. The question is: Should we change economic structures based on those reports? Don't we have enough experts to make foreign solutions to our problems?"

"Based on the above I call on the government:

(1) — "To control expenditure and to save public funds. Two examples show that the concerned authorities are not on this line. First the purchase of 400 Audi buses for JD 1.8 million and 100 buses for JD 400,000 for the same company. I ask: does our economic situation allow this? Second, the purchase of Mr. Hassan Al Kayed's house for JD 125,000 for the Department of Antiquities."

(2) — "To start dealing with the problem of unemployment."

(3) — "To give priority to health projects. And therefore, I ask for more funds for Tafleh hospital."

(4) — "To link Tafleh Governorate with the Jordan Valley by road, a project that I campaigned for so long, and which I did not find mentioned in the draft budget."

"Finally, I want to ask the government to adhere to the Prophet Mohammad's saying: 'who sleeps secure in his home, healthy in his body and in possession of his day's food, who owns the world.' I ask that the government stops harassing the youth without any reason."



Abdul Wahab Al Tarawneh (Karak)

"We are confident in the government's ability to implement all what has been promised in the 1987 draft budget in general and raise the citizen's quality of life and the improvement of the agricultural sector in particular. However, the allocation of JD 4.5 million in the draft budget for agricultural purposes is a modest amount which does not suit the government's ambitious moves to breathe life into this sector."

"I suggest that the government transfers part of its total allocations in the 1987 budget for the agricultural sector to support the farmer and this sector."

"I also suggest to the government that it reschedule the loans it has extended to farmers to ten-year periods instead of the present five-year terms, and grant the farmers a grace period of two years out of the total 10 years."

"We also support all plans to consolidate the pan-Arab agricultural and economic projects provided that the Jordanian farmer is protected."

"I also urge the government to form an investigative committee to be entrusted with visiting the farmers and gaining knowledge of their problems, and suggesting solutions."

"I support suggestions made by my colleagues over reducing prices of fuel in general and of diesel in particular to lower the farmer's cost of production and help him to increase his revenues."

"We also urge the government to support the budget of the Tafleh University, to allow the educational institution increase its student occupancy capacity."

"I would like to remind the government over the importance of drafting a new law on 'Fraud where do you have this?' money frauds made by public servants and bring to book misusers of public funds."

"We would be grateful if a draft law is introduced to make misusers of public funds liable in 1970."

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# Deputies urge stepped-up efforts to achieve national economic goals



Nazih Ammarin (Karak)

"The 1987 draft budget is an actual translation for the speech from the throne and comes in response to the needs of the Jordanian citizen for their stability and security."

"Our Jordanian Armed Forces is the symbol of national unity and is the defenders of Jordan's security and the carriers of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt."

"For the first time in the country's financial history, the budget has exceeded the JD 1 billion mark, and this is a reflection of the keenness to pursue the march of development and to develop the national economy despite the limited financial resources the country enjoys."

"The industrial sector has been guarded with a wide range of measures that aim at encouraging and boosting the local industries."

"I call on the Audit Bureau to reach international standards in terms of quality and quantity to suit the increasing amounts allocated in the 1987 budget."

"I do hope that the government will grant the health sector priority, specially in the area related to adopting a national and comprehensive health insurance scheme. I also hope that the government will offer the support needed for the Karak Governorate hospital."



Ahmad Al Khofahi (Irbid)

Ziad Younis (Tulkarem)

"I call on the Arab and friendly countries to take part in implementing the comprehensive socio-economic development plan for the occupied territories in order to help us regain our legitimate rights in our occupied land."

"The significant financial allocation for development projects in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and as outlined by the 1987 draft budget is a national need which aims at strengthening the steadfastness of people living in the occupied territories."

"I also support the Financial Committee's appreciation for the government's efforts to tackle the present economic issues, including encouragement of local and regional capital investment in the production sector. I also praise the government for the steps it has taken to encourage investments such as allowing the private sector to take part in designing the overall economic policy, giving priorities for the local contracting companies over foreign companies, marketing Jordanian

products in Arab and neighbouring markets, establishing holding companies and treating Arab investors on equal footing with Jordanian capitalholders."

"These actions have allowed the Jordanian dinar to maintain its value at a time when the face values of the majority of foreign currencies have declined. I also support on the committee's recommendations regarding the Jordanian Armed Forces, the financial and economic policies as well as the sectors of services and agriculture."

"I think the government for, allocating a total of JD 8 million for the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to allow for investment in the Awqaf lands and to cover the expenses of Islamic cultural centres, schools and mosques and to provide qualified preachers in the Kingdom's mosques which are spread in the East and West Banks."

"I call on the government to absorb unemployed university graduates in its institutions in the West Bank, to cash all frozen salaries of public servants working in the West Bank since 1967. These have reached a total of 33 months in dues and to treat retired servicemen in the West Bank on equal terms with ex-servicemen of the East Bank."

"I also urge the government to market the surplus of agricultural produce in the East and West Banks through the agricultural marketing company and to offer financial support for farmers who are adhering to the agricultural cropping pattern."

"I hope that the government will earmark the needed finances for the Islamic scientific and educational college in Qalqiliyah."

"I also call on the Cabinet to support the existing health institutions in the West Bank and to increase the allocations for the national aid fund."



Riad Nawaiseh (Karak)

"As you know, the draft budget law represents the financial and economic aspects of the general policy of the government. And as such, it gives us the opportunity to look at and give our opinion on this policy as a political, economic and social programme for the next year."

"Unemployment was described in the budget speech as 'structural' and a figure of eight per cent of the total workforce was mentioned. Although we believe the figure to be much higher, we think it is important to emphasise that the unemployment that we have is 'political' rather than 'structural'."

"The article concerning local revenues — which are in the form of heavy taxation to the municipal councils and charges for water, electricity and others — amounting to JD 586 million should be reduced in every possible way."

"In return, the government should draft Al Zakat law (alms to the poor) under which only rich people are bound to shoulder the financial burdens instead of the poor. Under the Zakat law, certain requirements are levied on the rich people and differentiate, between the rich and poor, for its provisions do not apply on basic commodities needed for the life of the general people."

"Moreover, firm legislation should be issued in order to force the Jordanian tycoons to withdraw their deposits from foreign banks. Those funds should first be

checked out on their legality, subject to Al Zakat law, and then invested in national development projects."

"The government should also refrain from the policy of securing loans at high interest rates since the accumulated interest rates are registered to have exceeded JD 63 million, an extra payment which represents a further burden on the government."

"The government is also requested to take steps aimed at lifting financial pressure from the unemployed and low-income workers. This could be achieved through a planned programme including a study to improve the situation of public servants in general and the teachers in particular, reducing the prices of fuel in accordance with the international drop in oil prices and confining the role of the Ministry of Supply to only trading with government-subsidised commodities, leaving transactions of other goods to the private sector."

"The government should forbid depositing funds abroad and curtail the importation of luxuries. Irbid governorate has outstanding problems which need to be solved. The problems include treating salination in the governorate's underground water and setting up a college for Shari' at Yarmouk University."

"Expediting the implementation of a four-lane Amman-Irbid road and setting up new capital projects in the northern parts with a view to absorb part of the unemployed are also demands put to the government."

"In the health sector, the budget speech referred to building several new hospitals. But this remained only talk as in earlier speeches. So was the case of the new law of the medical council and the medical insurance programme. What is needed instead of the medical insurance programme is a comprehensive health insurance programme for all citizens."

"The budget speech referred to the blessing of security and stability that we enjoy. I do not understand how this can be the case when we still have the defence and martial laws, and when the constitution has been suspended for two decades now."

"What security and stability are we talking about when the land is either occupied or threatened, and when the citizen is not enjoying his full rights to freedom and thought? Talk about security and stability would have been possible if the speech had tackled the issues of lifting the martial law and giving citizens their full rights to expression and political organisation."

"For the budget to have credibility, it has to be taken seriously and followed to the letter. We do not oppose lighting up streets, or shouldering the cost of failure at Abu Nsir (housing estate) or exempting part of hotel profits from taxes, but all these steps have to be taken in conformity with the budget allocations as approved by Parliament, otherwise the legislative branch would lose its control over public money."

"Here, we propose that there be no more annexes to the budget after the fiscal year ends, and that there be no more loans to finance projects not included in the budget."

"It is non-conformity with the budget that makes actual figures not correspond with budget figures. For example the total loans and deficit in the 1986 budget were JD 90 million and JD 37 million respectively; this makes the total estimated deficit JD 135 million, which would have to be covered by commercial and

development loans; so what would in effect happen?"

"The loans in the first section of the budget totalled JD 157 million and the loans in the second section amounted to JD 90 million. Therefore the government would have borrowed JD 247 million or three times as much of what the budget states. In addition, the JD 65 million deficit would bring the overall deficit in the current 1986 deficit to about JD 312 million."

"In other words, 31 per cent of the government's finances are loans. Is this acceptable to a responsible government which knows the consequences of getting entangled in loans either local or foreign? How and when will the treasury repay the loans?"

"Subsidiary oil products was allocated JD 5 million in the budget, but the amount was taken as revenue totalling JD 90 million as savings and government revenue amounted to JD 95 million which should cover the deficit and avoid more borrowing."

"What the government did was to expand spending unreasonably and to widen the total deficit to JD 312 million. What would have happened without energy savings? Could the total deficit have gone as high as JD 400 million? What financial policy allows expanding spending to a degree of posting such a high deficit and can this situation continue for long?"

"What is the point in saying that the deficit for 1987 is JD 39 million and how can we believe this figure in the light of what happened for the 1986 budget? What are the new policies and the changes from last year (1986)? Under this circumstances we can't expect but more borrowing, higher deficit, accumulative deficits and increased debt servicing above the so-called normal level if we haven't exceeded that already."

"The first section of the budget projects higher revenue in 1987 by 21 per cent compared to the 1986 figure. Moreover spending under the first section is projected to be less by four per cent. Who believes these statements?"

"Income tax was down by 25 per cent or more, customs revenue fell by nine per cent and will be declining further if imports fall; some local revenues declined, oil price is expected to rise thus cutting the income from oil products, Arab aid is decreasing and the recession is spreading throughout economic sectors... so how can revenues be so highly projected?"

"Will there be new taxes? Will there be inflation? Is there a fascinating economic growth? The answer to all these questions is no. So how come the revenues were so grossly exaggerated to allow for more huge spending which, we know beforehand, will be surpassed by the government."

"I challenge the government, represented by the prime minister, to raise revenues by 21 per cent and lower spending by four per cent. I am sure that the opposite will occur."

"If it had not been for the savings from oil prices, the 1986 budget figures would have been a true mediocrity and the citizens would have had to pay the cost of inefficiencies, financial waste and the incapability of collecting treasury dues."

"What will happen in 1987 to raise revenues and reduce spending and why the budget speech does not say what could be believed?"

"The capital expenditure in the second section of the budget include, for the first time, an amount of JD 25 million to be spent on construction of various buildings but the amount is only to be disbursed by a decision of the Council of Ministers."

"We do not object to such construction projects, defined only as schools, health centres and hospitals, but we want specific projects with a cost for each because that is the way it should be unless the government is saving the disclosure of details of these projects as surprises for some happy occasions."

"We are here to debate budget projects according to priorities, so how can we do that if the projects are not known to us but rather left to a future decision belonging to another body beyond our reach in Parliament?"

"The Lower House have previously recommended that all budgets of public companies should all be incorporated in the general budget but the government did not abide by those decisions and the Budget Department distributed a special booklet for various independent government institutions showing independent financial positions for each."

"We could notice that these institutions were truly independent and far away from legislators' control from the spending point of view, but the fact that these institutions depend mostly on government financial backing makes these institutions not as independent as it may seem. Therefore, these institutions should either be truly independent and not dependent on treasury funds or be subject to the same budget criteria like other

government departments."

"Though worthless, the special booklet for independent institutions did not include the budget for the Royal Jordanian Airline, despite the fact that its operations alone equals the total budgets of all other institutions together."

"We do not know why the airline's budget was not included. Is the reason for this to cover up losses or is it that the corporation is truly managerially independent from the government?"

"Along the same lines, the government is still ignoring the resolutions of the Lower House which state that non-recurring spending for the Armed Forces should be included in the treasury and not in a special fund to avoid the same question again... what is the wisdom behind this?"

"Based on all the aforementioned, I see the budget in its present form as lacking the minimal principles of planning and the financial policies in general and therefore I oppose the draft budget and request that it be turned back to the government."



Mohammad Al Thweib (Bethlehem) and Ismail Hijazi (Hebron)

"We realise, while debating the government's budget, that the mere figures are not indicative of real progress unless the numbers are linked to practical implementation to show how Jordan is advancing towards achieving its goals and ambitions."

"We noted that the budget was based on the wise foundations laid down by His Majesty King Hussein and adopted by the government to reflect His Majesty's keenness to strengthen the past achievements and to preserve the security and to bring higher prosperity to the Jordanian people."

"The citizen is the essence of production and the real capital in Jordan and it is imperative that the citizen should be a full active partner in what the country is undertaking in administrative development and economic reactivation. Jordan cannot achieve much if citizens are not actively involved and not vigorously participating in the process for progress."

"In this regard, the following important points in the budget should be highlighted."

"Unemployment: It was announced in the budget speech that unemployment has become more evident and it was estimated at eight per cent of the workforce."

"Unemployment is not only among university and community college graduates and among engineers and medical doctors but it is getting more widespread among many other sectors and professions. As a result, it is high time to take active measures to limit entry permits to foreign labourers especially that there are about 210,000 non-Jordanians working in the country representing more than 32 per cent of the workforce."

"We are witnessing some crimes that were unheard of before. Statistics by the Public Security Department point to 151 crimes committed by non-Jordanians during the month of October 1986. The number represents an increase of 42 crimes over the figure from October 1985 and it is shocking that 55 per cent of the crimes were committed in Amman."

"We appreciate the capabilities and alertness of the police force to subdue foreign criminal acts but it is equally important that the private sector should also help by not relying on government measures to combat foreign employment but rather should give priority to Jordanian labour."

"We are confidently following up on the government's initiative to develop the occupied territories in accordance with the request of Parliament."

"We call on all Arabs to support the development plan which Jordan is adopting to minimise the sufferings of our people under occupation and to supply them with essential services."

"We appreciate the government's allocation of JD 10 million to develop the occupied territories and we hope that more funds would be allocated in the future to preserve the Arab existence in the occupied territories from cracking under the oppression of the Israelis."

"We also appreciate the government's support for various educational and health entities and hope that the support would cover the workers in these sectors, beyond 1987."

"We feel obliged to extend our thanks to the prime minister for his initiative in expediting the

release of JD 4 million to much-needed projects in the occupied territories and for all decisions taken by the government for the benefit of engineers and lawyers."

"The Armed Forces, being the shield of the nation and the protector of the country's achievements, was given the anticipated support in order to maintain the high standard it enjoys and to remain the pride of each citizen."

"The government should provide the Armed Forces with all means to maintain its high standard and to raise its number and its equipment. Equally important, the governments should give much attention to the People's Army and the Public Security and Civil Defence departments to enable them to achieve our goal of countering all enemies of the Arab Nation."

"It is high time that something positive is to be taken in this regard, not only because it is the right path but because international borrowing has become extremely difficult."

"Foreign debt (instalments and interest) for 1987 exceeds JD 110 million or about 10.8 per cent of total general expenditure. We welcome the government's keenness to control down the foreign debt as expressed in the 1987 budget and we hope that the projections will be translated to real figures."

"In this regard, borrowing should be restricted to projects which are economically feasible and which rely on local raw materials and Jordanian labour to lessen the unemployment problem."

"Expatriates' transfers of hard currencies should be utilised efficiently as it is expected that large sums will be coming in during the next three years as a result of many expatriates returning back to reside in their homeland."

"The government should regard the hard currencies of the expatriates as a valuable asset for years to come when it is expected that expatriates' transfers would diminish."

"The financial sector should be enhanced and given added confidence. The Central Bank of Jordan should also be given more authority to draw up new legislations to supervise and apprehend unlawful acts by banks or moneychangers."

"The willingness to support industries should be reflected in some benefits for the citizens especially in low prices, good quality and higher employment so that any protection given to the industrial sector does not benefit a small group."

"Higher degree of supervision should also be exerted on semi-government institutions which are more or less independent and which account for about 50 per cent of government expenditures."

"We hope that the supervision would be intensified on spending and that efforts are multiplied in collecting revenues which, according to the budget, will grow by 21 per cent for the general revenues and by 13 per cent to local revenues."

"Other Arab countries should also take part in implementing the noble development scheme for the occupied territories in order to help the people living there to consolidate their steadfastness in the face of the Israeli enemy."

Zouhair Douqan Al Hussein (Balqa)

"Numerous are the issues of concern which need clarifications, but I am confident that the majority of my colleagues will be addressing these issues and therefore, I will limit myself to dwell on the high costs that are imposed on the average-income citizens."

"The prime issue of concern to people nowadays is the amount of revenues the Kingdom's treasury has been able to save due to the international decline of oil prices. To qualify my statement, I will give the following example: In 1985, a total of 2.6 million tonnes of crude oil were consumed at a total cost of \$531 million. In 1986, Jordan is expected to consume a total of 2.7 million tonnes of oil at a cost of \$276 million (due to the drop in the international market price per barrel of oil from \$28 to \$18)."

"In 1987, the Kingdom is expected to consume a total of 2.8 million tonnes of crude oil at a total cost of \$368 million. The difference in the price of oil paid during 1985 and 1986 has allowed the government to save."

"Another issue of concern is the low wages paid to retired servicemen in general and military ex-servicemen in particular. These former public employees are getting 'disgusting and funny' retirement wages, which I believe should be increased. Also, I do

hope that the government would consider an increase in the salaries paid to all public employees since such an increase would probably reactivate the current economic situation and will inject more working incentives."



Ati Abul Izz (Aqaba)

"In his speech, the deputy expressed his loyalty to and esteem for the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and praised the continued efforts that His Majesty exerts on all levels to achieve progress and maintain security in this country."

"Mr. Izz said he had no doubts that the government realised very well the problems that face Jordan and that the government was very serious in tackling the regional economic recession by trying to minimise its effects."

"The deputy hoped that the budget would be implemented in every detail and that the deficit would be covered from savings on unnecessary expenditures and from increased local and foreign revenues."

"Urging the strict implementation of the budget, the Aqaba deputy called for lifting his constituency to the level of a governorate and to find a quick and fair solution to Aqaba fishermen."



Wahid Jaabari (Hebron)

"The unstable political situation in the region has affected the area's economies respectively, but despite that, the 1987 budget includes a number of vital projects which cover a wide spectrum of the country's needs and help in solving the issue of unemployment."

"I hope that government will lower its expenditures to cover areas of vital importance such as production and service sectors."

"The present situation in the Israeli-occupied territories is being aggravated day by day with the continuation of the Israeli authorities' drive for setting up settlements and Judaizing the area. Therefore, Jordan should increase its allocation for the West Bank and Gaza Strip socio-economic development plan to JD 30 million from the present JD 10 million."

"Other Arab countries should also take part in implementing the noble development scheme for the occupied territories in order to help the people living there to consolidate their steadfastness in the face of the Israeli enemy."



Abdul Baqqi Jammo (Zarqa)

"I thank the government for its efforts in preparing the draft budget for 1987 and for the House financial committee for preparing its report on the budget."

"I thank all the Arab countries who are extending financial support to Jordan."

"The Iranian aggression on Iraq has been carried out in a way that contradicts with the basic pillars of Islam and the Iranian regime has abused Islam to cover for its aggressive plans. Therefore, all Arab countries should stand in support of Iraq to allow it to continue defending the Arab World."

"I call for an immediate solution to the issue of Jordanian truckowners as well as that of land owners whose agricultural lands were affected by the sewerage project located between Russeifah and the Tawafiq Al Edwan area next to Zarqa."

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## Botham returns strong for cricket test in Australia

CANBERRA (R) — All-rounder Ian Botham, playing for the first time for three weeks, was quickly back to his most robust form with two wickets and a quickfire 43 in England's victory over the Prime Minister's XI here Tuesday.

England won the one-day game at Manuka Oval by four wickets with 14 balls of its 50 overs to spare. It made 241 for six after restricting the Prime Minister's XI to 240 for five.

From an England point of view, the match's chief importance was as a Botham fitness workout after he tore a muscle in his side in the second test in Perth on Dec. 3. He missed the third test in Adelaide and his participation in the fourth

test starting in Melbourne on Friday was in some doubt.

But his 10-over bowling stint, albeit off a shortened approach, and his hard-hit 43 in 52 minutes from 44 balls dispelled English fears that they would have to do without him again.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke won the toss using a coin delivered by a skydiver and his young Australian side batted attractively for its runs. Openers

Glenn Bishop and Mike Veletta put on 109 from the first 23 overs. Veletta going on to make 75.

For England, David Gower's 68 from 67 balls was the most impressive contribution while Botham's was the most significant.

Botham said: "It's been bloody boring the last three weeks. But I feel very good. I've had no reaction to either bowling or batting, although I wasn't at more than 75 per cent pace."

He said he would not be fully fit to bowl in Melbourne but added he would be "a useful first change."

England captain Mike Gatting said: "Botham didn't try to bowl flat out. I hope he will be able to bowl and bat in Melbourne."

## With a long tradition of discipline, Arsenal enjoys life as league leader

By Timothy Collings  
Reuters

LONDON (R) — Arsenal, the London soccer club with the blue chip reputation of a dependable merchant bank, will celebrate its centenary on Christmas Day on top of the English First Division.

With a five-point lead over its nearest rivals, an unbeaten run of 12 league matches behind it and a proud record of never having been relegated in its long and illustrious history, the players might be pardoned a second helping of plum pudding and an extra swig of brandy to aid digestion.

But forgiveness will not be needed. Complacency is the last human failing to be found amid the shining, evocative marble halls of the club's Highbury Stadium.

Indeed, the notion of an Arsenal player even loosening his tie during the festive season would raise eyebrows among the club's loyal, but long-suffering, followers and almost certainly invite a formal reminder of the club's strict code of conduct.

Brought up to admire the discipline, diligence and traditions created by Herbert Chapman, the manager who lifted the club to

greatness after taking charge in 1925, Arsenal's fans have endured years of taunting of the gunners' starched and stiff-collared style on and off the field.

Even in 1971, when it won the English League and Cup double, its triumph was somewhat watered down in its workmanlike achievement by comparisons with the more expressive and skillful team of local rival Tottenham who had performed the same feat a decade earlier.

This season, however, watching their team climb from mid-table to take a firm grip at the top with a steadily increasing flow of goals and convincing victories, the fans have enjoyed hearing the "lucky" and "boring" taunts, so frequently used in the past, stick in the critics' throats.

Last Saturday, Arsenal dug itself in at the summit with a 3-0 victory over Luton Town, one of the cluster of clubs fighting to stay within touching distance of the leader.

Though the performance was not one to move neutrals to ecstasy, it was sufficiently convincing to prove that the gunners' title-challenging

credentials are capable of standing up to most tests.

Luton, a modest but well-organized team, defended stubbornly for 70 minutes before Arsenal's patience was rewarded with goals from Niall Quinn, Tony Adams and Martin Hayes, three relatively unknown youngsters who have established themselves in the team moulded this season by new manager George Graham.

Graham, himself a member of the 1971 double-winning team, was moved to remark afterwards: "I played in many games like that when we won the championship. You have to keep your patience and still believe in what you are trying to do."

Graham, a dry-witted Scot with no time for fools, and Arsenal, who has not won a major honour since winning the Football Association (F.A.) Cup in 1979, clearly have abundant patience.

Earlier in the season, some of Arsenal's more vociferous fans were calling for Graham to use the club cheque-book to strengthen the team's attack. He declined and instead persevered with a striking trio of Quinn, Hayes and Perry Groves.

Charlie Nicholas, the Scottish World Cup striker, lost his place through injury and has been unable to reclaim it since recovering as the tall, gangling Quinn, intelligent and industrious Hayes and toiling provider Groves were welded into an effective unit.

In its last five league games, Arsenal has scored 14 goals, conceded two and collected 13 points. Nicholas, his hair trimmed and shirt tucked into his shorts since Graham's arrival, still waits on the substitutes' bench.

Chapman created a world-famous club by sticking to a counter-attacking game which revolved around the skills and tactical acumen of Charlie Buchan, David Jack and Alex James and which first spawned cries of "lucky Arsenal."

## Plan to allow tennis pros in Olympics gets boost

LONDON (AP) — A plan to allow the world's top professional tennis players to compete in the 1988 Olympics received a major boost Tuesday from the International Tennis Federation and Soviet sports officials.

The ITF said it would ask the International Olympic Committee "on an experimental basis" to open tennis in the Seoul Games "to all players without discrimination."

The plan must be approved by the IOC before taking effect. "We hope that the participation of the best players in the world, both men and women, in the biggest festival of sport in the world will encourage millions of new people to take up the game," the ITF statement said.

After returning to the games as an exhibition sport in 1984, tennis will be a medal sport in '88.

While professionals would be allowed to compete, the ITF said they would have to undergo drug tests, suspend endorsement contracts that require them to wear manufacturers' logos on uniforms and rackets, and "not accept any form of financial reward whatsoever" for their participation in the Games.

The men's Davis Cup and the women's Federation Cup, the main international team events in tennis, will be used as the basis of picking the Olympic field, with a worldwide qualifying programme to complete the draws, the federation said.

Each men's and women's team would consist of no more than three singles players and one doubles team, the ITF said.

Such a proposal for tennis is very similar to one put on hold last October at the IOC's 91st session in Lausanne, Switzerland, where the committee agreed to allow virtually every other sports federation to determine eligibility for its Olympic athletes.

But while the IOC plan was opposed by Moscow, the ITF proposal appeared to have gained Soviet approval.

The ITF announcement mentioned that Federation President Philippe Chatrier, a longtime advocate of open

Olympics, had met recently in Moscow with Marat Gramov, the Soviet sports minister and National Olympic Committee president.

Asked if this meant that Gramov had raised no major objections to the ITF plan when it was presented by Chatrier, ITF General Secretary Shirley Woodhead replied: "Yes, that's a good way to put it."

Moscow and its Eastern Bloc allies have been at the centre of opposition to opening the games to professionals. Their stance weakened in October, 'at tennis — where all of the top Western players are pros and the technically amateur Soviets are beginning to make inroads — was one sport on which they stood firm."

The proposal will be submitted to the IOC's eligibility commission in February and — if the commission approves — to the full IOC at its 92nd session in Istanbul, Turkey, next May, the ITF said.

Phone calls to Willi Daume, an IOC member from West Germany and chairman of the eligibility commission, were not answered. Michele Verdier, the IOC spokesman in Lausanne, Switzerland, was on vacation and an operator at the committee's headquarters said no one else was available to answer questions.

The ITF said that, if its plan is adopted by the IOC, qualifying tournaments would be held in Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania to pick half of the men's and women's fields. The other half would automatically be eligible for Seoul based on their performance in Davis and Federation Cup events, Woodhead said.

If a player chooses not to play on his or her nation's cup teams, as Lendl has done this year for Czechoslovakia, that would not bar that athlete from the Olympics, Woodhead said.

"Anyone could go through a qualifying tournament, provided they are nominated by their NOC (National Olympic Committee)," she said. "It's the NOCs who will nominate the players."

## Belgian squash tourney refuses appearance fee for Jahangir

BRUSSELS (R) — Jahangir Khan of Pakistan, five times world squash champion, has scratched from next month's Belgian Grand Prix Tournament in Antwerp after organisers refused to pay an appearance fee of \$15,000.

Tournament organiser Jef Hagedoren said Tuesday that following the refusal of Ron Morton, Jahangir's manager, had reduced the demand to \$5,000, but this was also rejected out of hand.

The incident has brought into the open the shadowy practice of appearance handouts to star players and led to a declaration of support for the Belgian organisers from the International Squash

Players Association (ISPA). "We support Hagedoren in his decision to refuse the appearance fee," ISPA Executive Director Roger Eady said.

"We know these practices have been going on for some time, but this is the first time an organiser gives us hard proof and even makes it available to the press."

He added that Jahangir was the only player who had asked for appearance money.

This is against the interest of the other players. It has done a lot of damage to other sports, and particularly to tennis," Eady said.

Although Jahangir will be absent, the organisers still boast the participation of world champion Ross Norman of New Zealand, who beat the Pakistani in last month's World Open Championship final in Toulouse, France, and is currently top of the computer rankings.

## Top seed wins in Orange Bowl tennis

MIAMI BEACH, Florida (AP) — Top-seeded Javier Sanchez of Spain, the number one junior player in the world, defeated Harry Anderson of South Africa, 6-0, 6-3, Monday in first round action of the boys 18 division at the 40th annual Orange Bowl Tennis Championships.

Second-seeded Tomas Carbonell of Spain defeated unseeded Salvador Bolanos of El Salvador, 6-0, 6-1, while third-seeded Omar Camporese of Italy defeated unseeded Tancerto Castellanos of the Dominican Republic, 6-0, 6-0.

In another match, fourth-seeded Al Parker of the United States beat unseeded Wendell McCombie of Trinidad, 6-0, 6-0.

The girls 18 division play starts Tuesday. In second round play of the boys 16 division, top-seeded Andrey Cherkasov of the Soviet Union defeated Tamer Hegazi of Egypt 6-0, 6-1.

In the girls 16 division, top-seeded Alexia Dechaume of France defeated unseeded Deborah Edelmann of the United States 6-1, 6-1.

## New England clinches berth

MIAMI (AP) — Steve Grogan, who replaced the injured Tony Eason, threw a 31-yard touchdown pass to Stanley Morgan with 44 seconds remaining Monday night to give New England a 34-27 National Football League victory over Miami.

The win put the Patriots into the NFL playoffs and knocked Cincinnati out.

It was the second touchdown pass of the game for Grogan, who also ran for a touchdown in what developed into a shootout with Miami's Dan Marino. Marino had three touchdown passes and set NFL records for pass completions and attempts in a season.

The victory by the Patriots, 11-5, gives them the AFC East title and means the Kansas City Chiefs will play the New York Jets at Giants Stadium in the AFC wildcard game next Sunday.

## Sydney yacht goes to court

FREMANTLE, Australia (R) — Backers of the Sydney boat Steak 'n' Kidney, unhappy about the scoring system for the America's Cup semifinals, took their complaint to the Western Australia supreme court Tuesday.

The Steak 'n' Kidney Syndicate filed a suit against the organising Royal Perth Yacht Club seeking an interpretation of the format to be used for the defender semifinals starting on Dec. 27.

After a short hearing the case was adjourned until Jan. 6, a delay which means Steak 'n' Kidney will race right through the semifinals in the hope of securing a favourable ruling.

Under the present format, Steak 'n' Kidney faces little prospect of surviving the semifinals because points acquired in earlier racing will be carried forward.

## Cash punches cameraman after Davis Cup practice

MELBOURNE, Australia (R) — A television cameraman said Tuesday Australia's top tennis player Pat Cash assaulted him at the end of a stormy practice session for the Davis Cup final against Sweden.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) cameraman Mike Patterson, 42, said Cash punched him in the right eye while he was filming him near the dressing rooms.

A second cameraman, from Channel 10, said Cash, who had earlier stormed off court during a match with teammate John Fitzgerald, walked up to him and tried to pull his camera out of his hand.

There was no immediate comment from Cash, but Australia's Davis Cup captain Neale Fraser said he was not surprised the reported incident had taken place.

Fraser said he would be talking to Cash about it Tuesday night. "It's typical of a highly strung athlete preparing for one of the biggest matches in his life," Fraser said.

"Cash is a perfectionist and he wasn't happy with the way he was playing," Fraser said, referring to his walk off.

"I was expecting something similar to this to happen. It has happened before and it will happen again."

Patterson said that he was about 10 metres from Cash and backed away after the player swore at him. He said Cash followed and threw a punch which hit him in the right eye.

During practice, Fitzgerald took the first set against Cash then produced a string of winners against the young Victorian, who promptly packed up his bag and stalked off.

Cash had broken two racquets during his match with Fitzgerald, part of practice for the final against Sweden that starts Dec. 26.

Fraser said Fitzgerald's form had improved his chances of a singles berth.

"But there is still tomorrow to go and we'll see what happens then," he said.

## Knicks end losing streak


NEW YORK (AP) — Patrick Ewing was playing well while the New York Knicks were losing eight consecutive games in the National Basketball Association, so it was no surprise that he played well when the losing streak came to an end.

Ewing, averaging 22.3 points during the Knicks' tailspin, scored 29 Monday night and equalled his season high with 15 rebounds in a

103-99 victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

"I'm happy to be playing better, but it's still no fun unless you win," said Ewing, whose scoring average after his first 12 games this season was 11.0. "I got tired, but when it's close you have to suck it in."

Ewing played 45 minutes for the Knicks, who also broke a six-game home losing streak.



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<p>Cinema <b>CONCORD</b> Tel: 677420</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">HOWARD</p> <p>Additional Party 10:30 a.m. Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema <b>RAINBOW</b> Tel: 625155</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">RAWDEAL</p> <p>Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema <b>OPERA</b> Tel: 675573</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">THE HITCHER</p> <p>Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema <b>PLAZA</b> Tel: 677420</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">TOP GUN</p> <p>Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema <b>RAGHADAN</b> Tel: 622198</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">Juliano Jima IN TEX</p> <p>Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45</p>
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<p><b>CHINA RESTAURANT</b></p> <p>NEXT TO GRINDLAYS BANK</p> <p>Take away service available</p> <p>Open daily 11:30 - 3:30 and 6:30 - 11:00</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">AQABA</p> <p>Tel: 03-314415</p>	<p><b>CROWN INTERNATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT</b></p> <p>packing, shipping, forwarding, international moving, storage, clearing, door-to-door service</p> <p>Agents all over the world Tel: 664000, 650852 Tel: 22205 BERSACO JO Cable: Nuss-Belco P.O. Box 32847 AMMAN JORDAN</p>	<p><b>RESTAURANT CHINA</b></p> <p>The first &amp; best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan</p> <p>1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahlyyah Girls School Take away is available</p> <p>Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m. 6:30 - Midnight</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Tel: 638968</p>	<p><b>CORFU GREEK TAVERNA</b></p> <p>The First and Only Greek Restaurant in Jordan</p> <p>TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT <b>Live Music</b> ZORBA THE GREEK.</p> <p>LOCATED: JABAL AMMAN, 2ND CIRCLE OPP. FRENCH LOAF TEL: 641585 NO COVER CHARGE</p>	<p><b>CHINESE RESTAURANT TAIWAN TOURISMO</b></p> <p>We wish you a happy holiday season</p> <p>Open daily Noon - 3:30 p.m. &amp; 6:30 p.m. - midnight Please call to reserve for our NEW Korean Bar-B-Q</p> <p>Location: Near 3rd Circle opposite Akilah Hospital Tel: 641093</p>	<p><b>MANDARIN Chinese Restaurant</b></p> <p>A XMAS DINNER PARTY A merry Xmas dinner party will be held on Dec. 25/1986 (Thursday evening). For just JD 6,000 per person you can enjoy favourite and delicious Chinese buffet, live music and dancing.</p> <p>Wadi Saqra Road - near Traffic Bridge Amman, Jordan Tel: 661922</p>	<p><b>CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT</b></p> <p>Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket</p> <p>Mongolian Barbeque for lunch and dinner FRIDAY</p> <p>Tel: 818214 Come and taste our specialties Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m. 6:30 - Midnight</p>
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## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.4415/25	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3751/66	Canadian dollars
	1.9680/9700	West German marks
	2.2240/60	Dutch guilders
	1.6440/60	Swiss francs
	40.93/98	Belgian francs
	6.4650/4750	French francs
	1365/1367	Italian lire
	162.45/55	Japanese yen
	6.8750/8800	Swedish crowns
	7.5000/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.4550/4600	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	392.70/393.20	U.S. dollars

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities showed a firmer bias in late trading after a mixed session but business was light due to seasonal considerations and was mainly confined to pre-holiday book-selling, dealers said.

At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was up 6.4 at 1,658.6 after opening one point lower at 1,651.2. Equities showed no reaction to news of a £1.03 billion visible U.K. trade deficit in November but dealers noted that market forecasts had called for a deficit of around £900 million.

Among leaders, ICI gained 8p to 1,085 while Trefalgar House rose 10p to 269 on investment support.

Elsewhere among leaders, GEC gained 7p to 185 on press comment, Lucas gained 6p to 462 on speculative demand while Pearson added 14p to 589.

Cons Gold lost 10p to 662 as bid hopes faded, RTZ fell 4p to 675 on profit-taking while Batshe 4p to 467 after news that U.S. cigarette manufacturer Philip Morris is to cut its prices in the U.K.

Oils were dull on profit-taking after Monday's gains with BP 6p down at 714 and Shell 5p softer at 978. Brent crude was also easier at \$16.60/95 a barrel after firmness in the wake of OPEC's agreement to reduce production and lift prices.

## Senior Japanese official warns of worsening unemployment

TOKYO (R) — A senior Japanese government official warned Tuesday of mounting unemployment, saying it would exacerbate regional differences and might spell the end of the country's much-admired system of lifetime employment.

"The unemployment situation will unfortunately become worse and worse," Mr. Tadashi Nakamura, assistant minister for international labour affairs, told Reuters in an interview.

The unemployment rate in October stood at 2.8 per cent, or some 1.61 million people, up from 2.6 per cent a year earlier.

Some economists and businessmen have forecast it could rise to six per cent as the strong yen takes its toll on Japanese exporters.

Although Mr. Nakamura declined to say how high he thought the jobless total would go, he said it was hard to imagine what Japan would be like if the rate doubled. Unemployment was only that high once, just after the ravages of World War II, he said.

According to the ministry of international trade and industry (MITI), Japan's unemployment would actually stand at over five per cent now if the government used the same method of calculating the figures as does Washington.

Mr. Nakamura disputed the MITI calculations, saying the U.S. and Japanese methods were similar. But he admitted that Japan has "hidden unemployment" — excess labour carried on the books of firms practising lifetime

employment.

Major Japanese firms want to keep that system — which guarantees jobs for life — as long as possible. But the recent economic downturn is causing problems. "If they are pushed to the corner... then they have to jump off," Mr. Nakamura said.

That has not happened yet. "But they are coming closer to the edge," he said.

Much will depend on the attitude adopted by employees in such depressed industries as steel and shipbuilding during next spring's wage round.

Their choice might be employment rather than a wage increase in order to keep the so-called lifetime employment system as long as possible," Mr. Nakamura said.

Mounting unemployment has also exacerbated regional differences in this supposedly homogeneous country, with cities like Tokyo prospering while regions like Hokkaido to the far north suffer.

Unemployment in Hokkaido stands at nearly four per cent. Mr. Nakamura held out scant hope the geographically isolated area could recover from the shutdown of uneconomic coal mines and layoffs by the soon-to-be-privatised national railways.

"Is it possible to create new jobs there?" he asked. "The answer is negative."

Laid-off workers from Hokkaido will have to be transferred to other areas. "But that's an enormous task," he said.

Central government budget may be tight next year

Meanwhile, Japan looks set to adopt a tight central government budget next year, throwing the onus for boosting the nation's flagging economy onto local cities and towns.

Finance ministry officials told Reuters Monday that the central government's overall budget in 1987-88 was likely to be around 54,000 billion yen (\$330 billion), little changed from the current fiscal year ending next March.

Taken by itself, the central government budget continues the restrictive stance adopted in recent years, despite pressure from abroad for action to stimulate the economy, officials said.

"Foreigners probably won't be very happy with it," said one official, who declined to be identified.

But officials said the finance ministry is pinning its hopes on local governments to step up spending on roads, bridges and other capital projects.

The ministry argues that the central government is strapped for cash because slower-than-expected economic growth will cut its tax revenues.

Towns and cities are better off, as they are not saddled with the heavy debts of central government.

But local authorities are resisting any cut in the subsidy they receive from the central government.

## S. Arabia's budget worries recede after OPEC accord

BAHRAIN (R) — A new OPEC price accord could allow the world's biggest oil exporter, Saudi Arabia, to balance its delayed 1987 budget without devaluing its currency, economists said Tuesday.

They said the OPEC pact to curb output and push prices to \$18 a barrel would boost the kingdom's revenue from oil exports to between \$20 and \$22 billion next year.

Saudi Arabia, architect of the latest OPEC agreement, is now due to unveil the twice-postponed budget on Dec. 29.

Economists said that while the emphasis would still be on austerity, spending plans could breathe new life into the kingdom's recession-hit industry.

"A realistic budget will put confidence back in industry... the lack of plans disrupted business life," one said.

Saudi Arabia's 1985/86 fiscal year ended on March 10, but the new budget was postponed then and again in August as turmoil on oil markets made it impossible to forecast revenue.

Economists said OPEC's accord reached in Geneva at the weekend went a long way to removing that uncertainty. Saudi government departments since March have budgeted month by month.

Now, the Saudi cabinet has

decided to start afresh and has redefined its fiscal year to start on Dec. 31.

Economists expect it to seek a balanced budget to conserve reserves and improve the need for austerity. One cautioned: "Any spending of more than 120 billion riyals (\$32 billion) has to be treated with scepticism... it will not balance."

For 1985/86, the kingdom launched an ambitious balanced budget of 200 billion riyals (\$53.3 billion).

But falling oil prices reduced revenue to 130 billion (\$34.7 billion), economists said. As a result, Saudi Arabia had to trim spending and draw on its estimated \$80 to \$90 billion of reserves to help bridge the gap.

Economists said the pact by 12 of the 13 OPEC members — Iraq refused to go along with it — gave Saudi Arabia a realistic chance to formulate a balance budget at a maximum 120 billion riyals (\$32 billion).

But they added that the mathematics would only stand up if the OPEC pact held and would also require more spending cuts

and steps to boost non-oil revenue.

OPEC's accord allows average Saudi oil production during 1987 of 4.551 million barrels per day (bpd), roughly its quota level since Sept. 1 this year.

Before the agreement, it was bringing between \$12.50 and \$15 per barrel. The new fixed price system envisages its four grades of crude being sold between \$16.27 and \$17.87.

Economists said the higher export income would still be way below earnings of \$101.9 billion in 1981, when Saudi production averaged 9.31 million bpd.

Exporters' current exchange rate would bring in 75 to 82.5 billion riyals (\$20 to \$22 billion) next year and put the kingdom within sight of balancing a budget of 120 billion riyals (\$32 billion).

Economists said options for raising revenue included devaluing the riyal to increase the value of dollar-denominated oil exports, charging for social services and raising import duty.

Saudi Arabia has apparently ruled out a devaluation — for the time being at least. The central bank on Sunday told the kingdom's 11 commercial banks no devaluation was planned.

In 1984, it taught banks and speculators an expensive lesson when it revalued the riyal, only to devalue a few weeks later.

## Report predicts slow growth, lower dollar next year

WASHINGTON (AP) — Slow growth and a declining dollar are predicted in 1987 for the United States and other non-Communist industrial countries in a report to the Institute of International Finance, which groups major banks throughout the world.

The report estimates that the economies, taken together, will grow by only 2.6 per cent this year and 2.3 per cent in 1987.

"The sharp fall in oil prices since the end of the 1985 has not produced the acceleration in industrial countries' output which had been widely expected," said a summary of the report.

"Instead, demand has weakened, as consumers have saved more and producers have invested less."

The forecast was prepared for a meeting of the bankers' economic advisory committee Oct. 27 and the summary was made available to reporters this week.

It says the dollar may decline by 16 per cent this year and seven per cent in 1987, with the drop continuing through the first half of 1988.

The report predicts some increased demand for imports in the United States and Japan, but a slowdown in Europe.

Overall the growth of imports is set at two per cent this year, down from three per cent in 1985. As a result, sales by developing countries may grow by only two per cent, with exporters to oil-producing areas the hardest hit.

## France signs \$200m aid agreement with Morocco

RABAT (R) — The French minister of economy, finance and privatisation, Mr. Edouard Balladur signed a financial accord with Morocco worth \$200 million (1.3 billion French francs) for this year.

The financial aid package accord signed with Moroccan Finance Minister Mohammed Bernada is for about the same amount as last year.

In addition a separate accord was signed for the transfer to France of funds belonging to French nationals which had been frozen for a number of years.

Mr. Balladur signed the accords shortly after arriving in Marrakesh Monday night for a 48-hour official visit.

Moroccan officials said the

French aid was an important token of support for Morocco which is plagued by financial problems. Its foreign debt has soared above annual gross domestic product to \$14 billion which is being rescheduled with backing from French banks.

French sources said the financial aid package would include 550 million French francs for the balance of payments and 750 million to finance capital equipment projects.

Among the projects are electric equipment for three dams, machinery for phosphate mines and Casablanca harbour, drinking water and electricity distribution networks to be supplied by French companies or their Moroccan subsidiaries.

## Iraqis plan to visit U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — A team of Iraqi government officials tentatively plans to meet with their U.S. counterparts here next month to discuss agricultural trade ties between the two countries, an Iraqi embassy spokesman said.

The embassy expects a delegation to be in Washington on January 3-4, 1987, although the dates are not yet firm, spokesman Ms. Nisreen Baker said.

Ms. Baker could not say which officials from the Iraqi and U.S. governments were expected to participate in the annual bilateral discussions on farm trade.

News of the Iraqis plans to visit came as continuing revelations concerning secret White House arms sales to Tehran heightened

interest in Washington's role in the Iran-Iraq military conflict.

Baghdad currently benefits from a number of U.S. agriculture department credit and export subsidy programmes and is considered an important market for U.S. agricultural exports, department analyst Mr. Dave Kunkel said.

During the year ended Nov. 28, the United States subsidised exports of 100,000 tonnes of wheat flour and 200 head of dairy cattle to Iraq.

The U.S. agriculture department has offered Baghdad a total of \$208 million in short-term and intermediate export credit guarantees since Oct. 1, according to department figures.

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24, 1986

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** A very good Christmas Eve to consider other persons and their needs. Do those things that will make them realize you care for them. Put yourself in the holiday mood.

**ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)** Have more concern for those who are discouraged and do whatever will best cheer them up.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)** Think of those who are having a hard time and plan how to make their lives easier. Be a true humanitarian.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)** Make a list of the individuals you want to see during the holidays so that you won't forget anyone.

**MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21)** Make sure that everything is in tip-top condition for the holidays. Get your gifts wrapped neatly.

**LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21)** Run out for last-minute shopping and then get your home sparkling. Make telephone calls you had forgotten.

**VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22)** Study your assets and liabilities and know how much you can spend without going under. Be practical.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** Take your rightful place in the scheme of the holiday season. See only those persons who can help you.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)** Get right to the tasks you have neglected lately and they are soon behind you. Help your mate when necessary.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)** If you have a friend who is in need of money, give cash as a present instead of being frivolous.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)** If you have holiday problems, handle them efficiently. Don't forget a gift for your boss.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)** You have new acquaintances that you need to impress. This would be a good day for such.

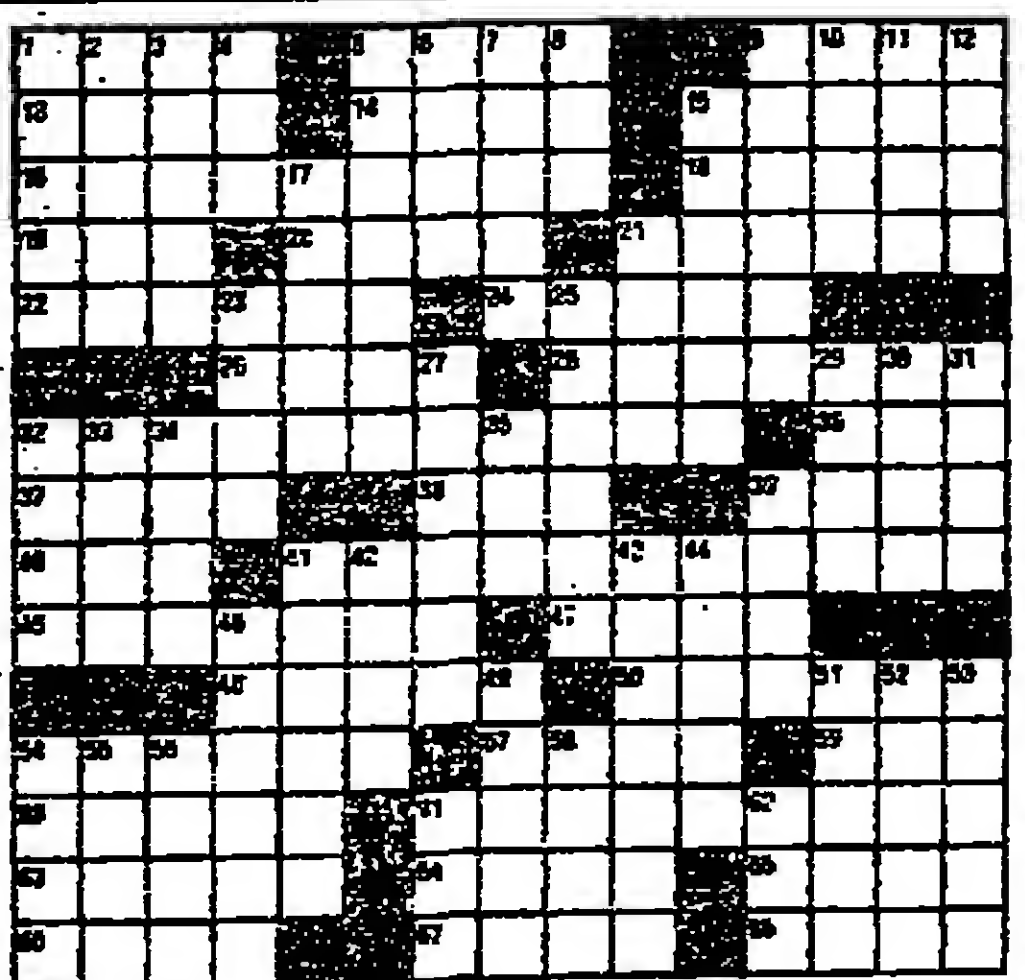
**PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)** Decide about holiday celebration. Don't rely on hunches, but use fine judgment.

**IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY...** he or she will be one of those delightful young persons who will have much consideration for others and should have the education slanted along humanitarian lines. Teach, however, not to be so selfless that others will take advantage of your noble progeny.

## THE Daily Crossword by James R. Burns

ACROSS

- Car for hire for short.
- Salmon.
- First king of Israel.
- Violent.
- Member of spending.
- Long Ranger's.
- Kind of drink.
- Old-time dances.
- Location.
- Spoke bread.
- Spoke body.
- Bright red.
- Alone.
- Golden.
- Trend.
- Parties.
- Be the best.
- Crew member.
- Engine.
- Coast abbr.
- Troutless.
- Ran into.
- Easy thing.
- Make ready.
- Strider.
- Center about.
- Samplers.
- Garments.
- the night before.
- Adherent.
- sun.
- Joan's weapon.
- Pearly item.
- Formed a bow.
- Around prof.
- Kind of code.
- Ground gain.
- Plan's river.
- Sludgy.



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

CHAIRMAN, ELDER, MAJOR, HUNTER, REPEAT, KICKAPOO, ARUM, ALLEN, SPIRITUAL, OMIGAS, LIAISON, RICHIE, LIAISON, SENIAT, DORIA, ADDEN, STRIP, SAK, ELAND, UNLITELY, BODAYS, CILMO, ALON, MORTAL, ODES, VIEWS, GUINIK, MOK, TRAIT, TIRIS, DIOIR.

- DOWN
- Of a place.
  - Hopping mad.
  - Complex.
  - Bullseye.
  - Patrol.
  - Turnpike.
  - change.
  - Leg joint.
  - Affirmative.
  - Social affair.
  - One opposed.
  - Indians.
  - Misplace.
  - Air, fly.
  - Karate crop.
  - Large barrel.
  - Hurried on.
  - Rants out.
  - Wipeout.
  - Lopez theme.
  - Make water.
  - Right.
  - Celtic.
  - Pound down.
  - Decline.
  - Set of grey.
  - New Deal program: abbr.
  - Deserts.
  - Divided.
  - Shovry tower.
  - chase.
  - Toronto's province.
  - Barquet.
  - Land tract.
  - Amethyst.
  - Carrot.
  - Glacial ridge.
  - cocked fire.
  - Shut noisily.
  - Famous race.
  - local.
  - Parvian.
  - Shabby.
  - Wandering place.
  - 38-manward follow.

## Peanuts



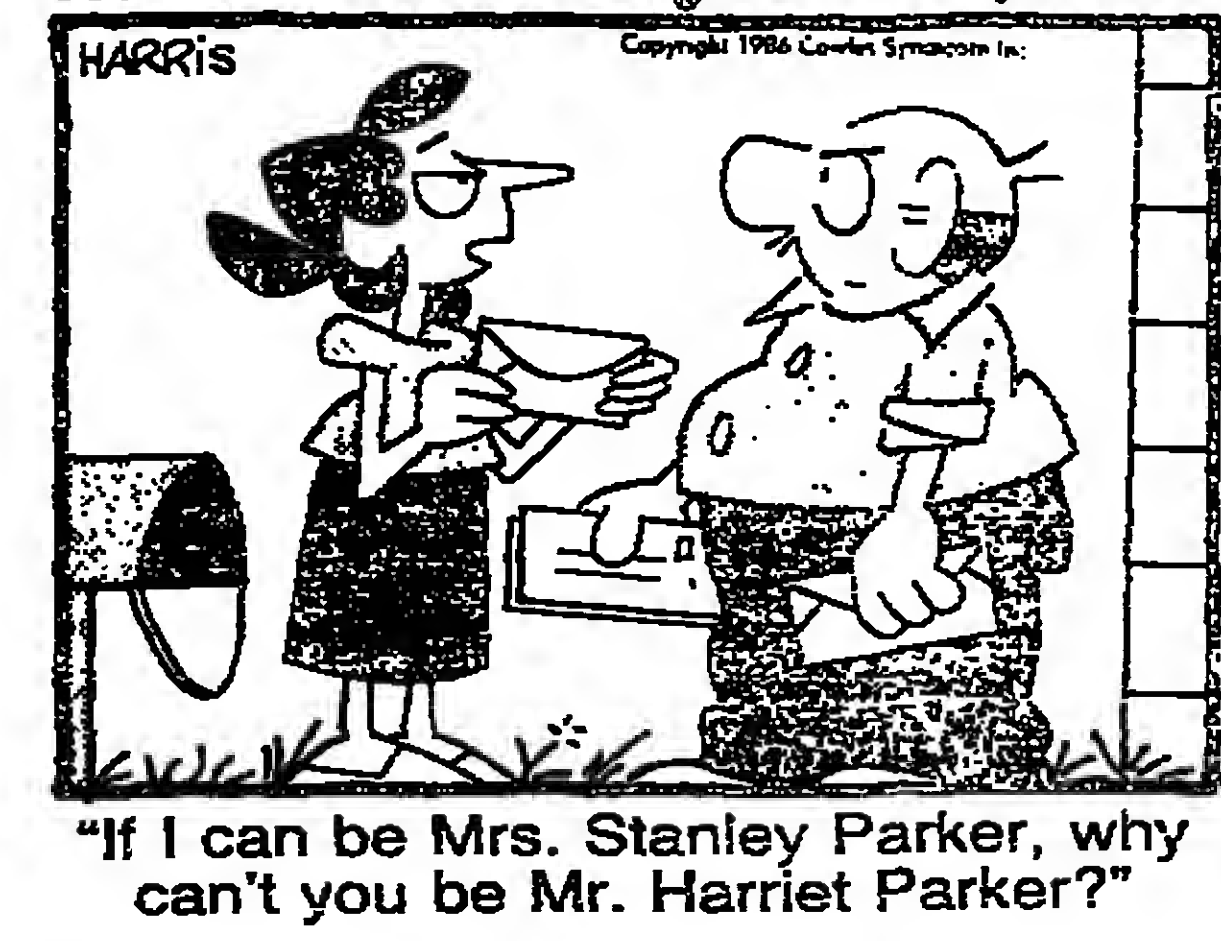
## Mutt 'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## THE BETTER HALF. By Morris



## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TAROA

REXET

CLUMON

SHARTH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "SCOTCH WHISKY"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ANISE SCARF GOTTIE POISON

Answer: What she said when the chimney sweep proposed marriage — "YOU SCOTCH ME FINE"



# Pretoria bars 2 groups of U.S. congressmen from January visits

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa has barred two groups of U.S. congressmen who planned to visit the country in January, Foreign Minister Pik Botha said Tuesday.

The U.S. congressmen, including Howard Wolpe, chairman of a House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, planned to make a fact-finding mission next month.

Mr. Botha told state radio only congressmen who did not vote for a tough sanctions package against South Africa in October would be welcome.

"To think that we must welcome here a number of legislators who have just now passed legislation punishing South Africa in the most vindictive way and allow them to investigate and evaluate the effect of the punishment they meted out to us. That is a bit far-fetched," Mr. Botha said.

Mr. Botha bitterly attacked Mr.

Wolpe, saying: "I do not think you will find anywhere in the world a man who is more vicious and vindictive against this country than that particular gentleman."

Asked if the United States could now impose more punitive measures on South Africa, Mr. Botha said: "They were going to do so in our opinion in any case."

He said it was important for the American public to be made aware that Congress' action against South Africa had repercussions for American interests.

"If they start realising that our

he said. Interviewed on state television Monday night, Mr. Botha defended South African forces who abducted five people from Swaziland this month, saying: "We would have taken them even if it had been in London." Two people were killed in the raid.

Speaking on his return from Swaziland where he held talks with Prime Minister Sotji Dlamini, he said neither country could tolerate African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas entering South Africa from Mozambique via Swaziland to kill people.

He said South African forces had "taken" people "personally responsible for the killing of South Africans—and who planned diabolic plans for the rest of the holidays."

Two Swiss citizens were later freed because of South Africa's good relations with the Swiss government, Mr. Botha said.

Pretoria this month imposed press censorship and rounded up opponents to pre-empt an alleged Christmas "terror campaign" by the ANC, which is fighting to topple the white-ruled government.

Commenting on proposed talks between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and ANC leader Oliver Tambo in Washington next month, Mr. Botha said he hoped Mr. Shultz made clear the U.S. government would not tolerate ANC violence and would insist the movement break its ties with the South African Communist Party.

Mr. Botha said such a meeting did not necessarily represent a shift in American policy, but he added that it was difficult to keep track of American foreign policy.

Earlier, the South African Broadcasting Corp. reported that the families of 86 black policemen whose homes were burned by radicals in their neighbourhoods had new houses for Christmas, outside the townships.

## Sri Lanka heads for Christmas ceasefire

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka looked forward to a peaceful Christmas Tuesday after the government and separatist Tamil rebels said they wanted a 24-hour ceasefire as a sign of goodwill.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said Monday night he hoped a "day of non-violence" would be observed on Dec. 25 along the lines of a worldwide truce called by Pope John Paul last month.

Sri Lankan soldiers and Tamil guerrillas, who have been fighting for three years, blamed each other for breaking the Nov. 27 one-day ceasefire.

"Christmas is a day of peace and unity and we must ensure there are no acts of violence," Mr. Athulathmudali told a meeting outside Colombo.

His call was welcomed by the deputy leader of the biggest guerrilla group in the island's northern peninsula.

Kanagaratnam, alias Raheem, told Reuters by telephone that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) "welcome any overtures towards peace."

"But for an effective truce, the military must remain inside their camps on Dec. 25 and stop attacks on civilians and our men," he said.

He said the other rebel groups, also fighting for a separate state for minority Tamils in the island's north and east, were likely to follow the LTTE decision.

Mr. Athulathmudali said a new foundation for peace was laid last week with the simultaneous release of two soldiers held in LTTE captivity and two LTTE men detained in the capital, Colombo.

"It's the first step. And for the second step, let's refrain from fighting for one day at least on Christmas," he said.

A National Security Ministry spokesman said Monday the exchange of prisoners showed that both sides could resolve internal problems without resorting to a third party.

Official sources said the exchange of prisoners was an "eye opener" and prompted new thinking in the government to opt for direct talks with the rebels.

The government last week ended inconclusive talks with special Indian envoys on Sri Lanka's plan to give limited autonomy to Tamils through new provincial councils.

India has been acting as a mediator between Colombo and the rebels.

More than 4,500 people have died in the past three years of fighting.

Meanwhile factional fighting between two major Tamil militant groups left at least 16 people dead near Amparam in eastern Sri Lanka, military officials said Tuesday.

The victims were all members of LTTE killed in an attack Monday by the Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation front, known as the EPRLF, the officials said.

The two militias are among five Tamil groups fighting the government for a separate nation they call "Eelam" in the island's north and east.

## Soviet general reveals flaws in article on SDI

LONDON (R) — A Soviet general, in what is believed to be an unprecedented move, wrote a letter to the Times of London in response to an article in the newspaper on President Reagan's "Star Wars" space-based defence plan.

The letter from Maj.-Gen. Rair Simonyan, published in Tuesday's paper, said the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) could become a shield from behind which the U.S. might try to launch a first strike. He added that such a development would increase rather than lower the risk of nuclear conflict.

Spokesmen for both the Times and the British Foreign Office said they could not recall such a letter being sent to the paper before. A Times spokesman said he felt the letter expressed the view of the Soviet government.

The Foreign Office spokesman said the Major-General's letter

"indicates that they (the Soviets) are prepared to use all the means of getting their message across." Written in response to a Dec. 2 article by journalist David Hart, the letter was passed to the Times by the London office of the Novosti Press Agency, Moscow's official overseas news organisation. The Times said it checked that the letter was genuine.

Simonyan gave his address as the Ministry of Defence of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Frunzi Street, Moscow.

In the letter he said: "The flaws in Mr. Hart's arguments underline the point that the only way to peace and stability lies through agreements on cutting and eventually eliminating nuclear weapons here on earth rather than through the development of space shield-swords."

## Zia calls Benazir Bhutto intelligent, over-ambitious

LONDON (AP) — Pakistan's President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq described his principal political opponent, Benazir Bhutto, as intelligent but over-ambitious in a television interview shown Monday night.

"I've never met her, but she seems to be an intelligent girl," the president told Britain's Independent Television news.

"She has some potential, not underestimated, and if she adopts a positive approach she can serve the country at some stage. But over-ambition is always bad," the president said.

Asked if he hated Miss Bhutto, whose political campaigning has drawn huge crowds, Gen. Zia replied: "No, I never hate — hate doesn't take you anywhere."

In April, Miss Bhutto returned to Pakistan from exile in Britain to head the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the party's leader and former prime minister, was executed by Gen. Zia in 1979 after a military coup.

In the recording made in Pakistan last week, Gen. Zia said that Miss Bhutto "has got her own designs and she considers herself an aggrieved party because her father was sent to the gallows. But this is not the way that Pakistan politics is to be run."

The president stated that the people of Pakistan had "rejected" Miss Bhutto, "not me."

He said: "The intelligence she has she can put to use for the better service of the country, but in a very positive manner."

Asked if Miss Bhutto's political ambition might be a dangerous threat to his rule, Gen. Zia said: "Not quite. She is leading a political party which has a good potential. (It) is one that must not be underestimated."

"Therefore my advice to the party in power is, strengthen yourself. By 1990, all the political parties will fight for power, so they should not underestimate their opponents."

Asked about speculation that the Soviet Union would like to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan after seven years fighting anti-Communist guerrillas there, Gen. Zia said he hoped for fresh diplomatic initiatives after the failure of previous efforts, mainly in Geneva.

Because Pakistan is host to three million Afghan refugees from the fighting, "we would be much better off" if the Soviet Union withdrew because the refugees would go home, he said.

Gen. Zia said that for the Soviet Union to agree to withdraw, Afghanistan would "have to be non-aligned and independent, and not anti-Soviet... America will tolerate a hostile Cuba but the Soviet Union will not tolerate a hostile Afghanistan," the president said.

## Reagan lauds U.N. reforms

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has welcomed promised reforms in the United Nations and pledged that the United States would support the world body if they were faithfully implemented.

The American ambassador to the United Nations, Vernon Walters, bolstered by the promised changes, particularly in the U.N. budget, said last week he would recommend Congress restore cuts in its contribution to the organisation.

"With the support of Congress, my administration has long advocated such reforms, so we are very pleased that these measures have finally been adopted," Mr. Reagan said in a written statement released by the White House.

"I am particularly gratified that the reforms include agreement to use consensus in deciding on budget levels and programme priorities."

The resolution, if implemented, would ensure that countries paying most of the U.N.'s bills have a bigger voice in shaping its budget.

Gen. Walters said this was largely the intention of congressional action otherwise requiring the United States to cut its contribution from 25 per cent to 20 per cent of the U.N. budget, now totalling some \$830 m a year. "I feel quite confident... that we can point this out to the Congress and see if we cannot restore the U.S. contribution," he added.

## Statue of Samantha Smith unveiled

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — A statue of Samantha Smith, the schoolgirl who became a symbol of peace between the United States and the Soviet Union, was unveiled in a ceremony Monday.

her mother and former schoolmates watched. "It's an incredible honour," said Jane Smith, Samantha's mother, who stood next to Maine Governor Joseph E. Brennan. "And I believe the statue will help remind all people, especially children, that ordinary people can make a difference."

The statue, located in front of the State Cultural Building, depicts Samantha releasing a dove, with a bear cub at her side. Samantha was 13 when she died last year in a plane crash. "She appeared to us as a shooting star — or more fitting to this season, as a Christmas star in the night, guiding the way for the three wise men," said Brennan. "Samantha will never, never be forgotten." Samantha, who lived in Manchester, Maine, gained international attention in December 1982 when she wrote a letter to Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader at the time, expressing her fears about nuclear war.

## Cyprus police kill masked gunman

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus police killed a gunman during an armed robbery attempt, Cyprus radio has reported. It quoted witnesses as saying three masked men wearing military-style clothing and carrying automatic weapons entered a football club just before dawn and took an estimated \$30,000 from a gambling room. One man, as yet unidentified, was killed in an exchange of fire with police, as the gang tried to escape. The other two men were arrested, the radio said.

## Goebbels praised in teachers' handbook

BERLIN (AP) — A school teachers' handbook praises Joseph Goebbels, Germany's Nazi-era propaganda minister, for his "courageous endurance" in the face of wartime allied bombing, an opposition politician said Monday. Erhart Koerting, Social Democratic Party leader in the West Berlin district of Charlottenburg, called the Goebbels passage "embarrassing" and demanded its removal. Guenther Spanier, a district school board spokesman, confirmed such a Goebbels passage appeared in the first 10,000 copies of an instructional handbook that is not available to pupils. "To avoid future misunderstanding, the sentence will be removed in the second edition of 5,000 issues," Spanier told the Associated Press in response to a telephone inquiry. The disputed passage read: "Goebbels was esteemed and respected for his courageous endurance," a reference to the Nazi propaganda chief's campaign to boost the morale of Berlin's population as allied bombing raids worsened. "I don't find it sensible that one should describe as 'courageous' (a man) who was partly responsible for the mass murder and total war" wrought by the Nazi regime, Koerting said.

## Pilots often sleep while flying

BOSTON (AP) — Commercial airline pilots often "fall asleep" while flying, and sometimes even fall asleep while flying planes on long overnight trips, a researcher says. Occasionally, everyone in the cockpit nods off at the same time while the plane flies on automatic pilot, he said. "Planes have been known to cruise past their destinations as the pilots and navigator snooze. When you are in the cabin and your head is rolling over and you can't stay awake, just remember that the guy up front is human, too," said Dr. Martin C. Moore-Edwards of Harvard Medical School. Dr. Moore-Edwards, an expert on work-sleeping and sleep, based his conclusions on a study conducted for an airline, which he declined to identify, as well as on interviews with cockpit crew. He blames the problem of boredom and fatigue on pilots that force pilots to work without time for their bodies to adjust. "We're known for a long time that pilots get sleepy on long flights. It's inevitable," said Dr. John K. Lander, a psychologist at the National Transportation Safety Board. "The difficulty is never trying that sleepiness to any performance problems or safety. We know that sleeping does occur."

## Shanghai demonstrations continue for 5th day

SHANGHAI, China (AP) — Students marched Tuesday toward Shanghai City Hall after officials refused to meet with leaders of pro-democracy rallies that have brought thousands of people into the streets of China's largest city.

Police followed the students during the fifth straight day of demonstrations as they walked from Tongji University carrying banners that read, "tell the truth," "implement democracy," "protect human rights," and

"down with bureaucracy."

Some students also carried banners saying "Xiaoping, where are you?" and "Hello, Xiaoping," in reference to China's top leader Deng Xiaoping, who has initiated reforms that involve a move toward more democratic policies. Some students have said the demonstrations were aimed at showing support for the political reforms.

Students said the Graduate Student Committee of Tongji University had wanted to meet

with city officials before 0700 GMT Tuesday. The students said they decided to march to City Hall because officials failed to reply.

There also were unconfirmed reports of another march near City Hall Tuesday morning.

The government on Monday broadcast warnings through loudspeakers in Shanghai's People's Square and posted notices telling students that further public disruptions would not be tolerated and police approval was needed for gatherings.

Students said three of their leaders seeking permission to demonstrate went to the Shanghai

Public Security Bureau Monday night after the notices were posted. They said their request was turned down because police decided they had not provided enough information about their plans.

An official at the Shanghai City Foreign Affairs Office, who refused to be named, said he had heard that students were marching Tuesday, but could not confirm or deny whether they had demanded to meet with city officials or had been denied permission to demonstrate.

There also were unconfirmed reports that some students met with city officials Monday night.

## U.S. spy team originally planned by Pentagon — Hall

MANAGUA (R) — Self-confessed American spy Sam Hall has said his intelligence-gathering mission in Nicaragua originated from an operation initially conceived two years ago by the U.S. Defence Department.

Hall, who was detained on Dec. 12 outside the Punta Huete Airbase north of Managua, told reporters here the plan to recruit an "American foreign legion" of spies and counter-terrorists was dropped by the U.S. government because it was too expensive.

It was picked up by private backers, he said, adding that he knew his contacts only by the codenames Tinker, Evers and Chance — all of whom he said were famous baseball players. "I am not working for the U.S. government that I know of," he said. "I am working for an independent group in America and my sole purpose is to come here to find information only."

The operation, which Hall also described as the Phoenix Battalion, was to be based in the Middle East with forays around the world. It would have employed 540 men.

Hall, 49, of Dayton, Ohio,

looked nervous when he was presented to reporters Monday. His comments only gave a patchy picture of events.

Hall, brother of a U.S. congressman, is the second U.S. citizen captured in Nicaragua in recent months in connection with the war between the leftist Sandinista government and U.S.-backed rebels.

The other American, Eugene Hasenfus, was pardoned and sent home last week after serving about a month of a 30-year jail sentence imposed for gunrunning to the rebels.

Hall is due to stand trial before a People's Tribunal, a special political court for trying war-related crimes like the one which convicted Hasenfus.

"In 1984 in November, I think about the 28th, I was invited to the Pentagon for a meeting," Hall said. "A group was to be formed, and I was to lead that as an independent... they called it the American Foreign Legion." He was also sent to the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Langley, Virginia.

The project was shelved after six weeks because of the cost, which would have about \$15 million.

He said he was later contacted and asked to resurrect the scheme for private backers.

## Sakharov, in Moscow, urges release of prisoners

MOSCOW (R) — Dissident leader and physicist Andrei Sakharov returned to Moscow Tuesday after seven years in internal exile and called for the release of all Soviet political prisoners.

Surrounded by dozens of foreign reporters and television cameramen at the capital's Yaroslavl Station, he also called on the Soviet government to take "decisive measures to end the tragedy" in Afghanistan.

Looking tired and worn, the 65-year-old Nobel Peace laureate said he had told Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in a telephone conversation last week that all "prisoners of conscience" should be released.

Dr. Sakharov arrived with his wife Yelena Bonner by overnight train from Gorky, some 400 kilometres east of Moscow, where he spent his exile.

He said he was "very happy indeed" to be back in the capital.

But Dr. Sakharov said his happiness was overshadowed by the death in a labour camp last month of another prominent dissident, Anatoly Marchenko. Dr. Sakharov said he had mentioned Marchenko's case to Mr. Gorbachev in their telephone talk.

He said he had "feelings of joy, feelings of excitement" at his liberation, announced to him by the Soviet leader in person when he called him in Gorky at 3 p.m. last Tuesday.

But these feelings were combined "with feelings that everything in the world is still very tragic," said Dr. Sakharov.

"The fate of my friends is very

tragic, my friends who are in labour camps of jails.

"I cannot for a moment free myself from horror at the martyr-like death of my friend Anatoly Marchenko in the struggle against injustice."

Dr. Sakharov added: "I hope that my liberation will facilitate a solution to this question, the question of prisoners of conscience."

The academician, a key member of the team that developed the Soviet hydrogen bomb during the late 1940s and early 1950s, doggedly answered questions as friends moved him from the train some 300 metres to a waiting car.

One of the friends angrily asked reporters to stop asking questions and let Dr. Sakharov go to the car, a small ochre yellow Moskvich Saloon parked in front of the Yaroslavl Station.

"He is tired, let him go home," said the friend, an elderly man in spectacles who refused to identify himself.

Dr. Sakharov added: "Yes, I am really tired."

"I am not good at giving press conferences, I'm not an eloquent person," he said, blinking in the glare of the television lights. "And I'm not used to crowds like this and noise."

Dozens of curious Russians including Soviet army soldiers in uniform were attracted by the lights of the foreign television crews, joined in the crowd, asking who was arriving.

Some said they had not heard of Dr. Sakharov, but many others pushed deeper into the throng around him. "Sakharov, back

from exile?" said one middle-aged man. "I really must see him."

Just before climbing into the car to join his waiting wife, who had hurried on ahead, Dr. Sakharov looked around at the crowd and declared: "I have never seen anything like this."

Dr. Sakharov, who during the 1950s won many top state awards for his scientific work, said he would be resting a little at the Moscow apartment where he and his wife lived before their exile.

But later Tuesday, he added, he intended to go to the Physics Institute of the Academy of Sciences, where he previously worked, to attend a seminar.

"I'm working on space problems and problems of elementary particles. I hope very much now that I'm back to return to problems of controlled reaction," he said.

Dr. Sakharov thanked fellow scientists, his family and world opinion for working for the release of himself and his wife from internal exile.

"This became possible thanks to such great international protection. All these seven years scientists, statesmen and public figures, and simply friends, have defended me."

"My children have defended me. And finally my wife has defended me," said the 65-year-old 1975 Nobel Peace laureate.

Dr. Sakharov spent some 40 minutes with reporters in the early morning winter cold, while Bonner, who has a heart condition, went ahead to rest in a car in which two friends later

drove them to their apartment in the capital.

Questioned on his health, Dr. Sakharov replied: "Of course I'm not a healthy man, but in comparison with my wife..."

He added that his own health condition had improved slightly.

Asked if he would seek a discussion with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, he said: "I want to have a rest and then get on with my scientific work before I seek any such meetings."

Speaking of his conversation with Mr. Gorbachev, Dr. Sakharov said: "He phoned completely unexpectedly. He said, 'you can return to Moscow, and Bonner too.'"

Bonner, who was also reprieved from a five-year term of internal exile to which she was sentenced in August 1984 for anti-Soviet activities, walked on ahead.

"It is his day, not mine," she told reporters.

Dr. Sakharov has standing invitations to travel to a number of Western countries but has indicated that he would prefer to continue to live and work in his homeland.

Mr. Gorbachev has previously said Dr. Sakharov cannot leave the Soviet Union because his scientific work made him privy to state secrets.

Dr. Sakharov, questioned on the Soviet role in Afghanistan, said: "I consider this to be the most painful point of our foreign policy and I hope that more decisive measures will be taken in this area than are being taken at present."

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